Ryotaro Iwanaga

2

PUMPKIN SCISSORS

Pumpkin Scissors

Imperial Army State Section III

by
Ryotaro Iwanaga

Translated and adapted by
Ikoi Hiroe

Lettered by
North Market Street Graphics

Pumpkin Scissors volume 2 is a wark af fictian. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the praducts af the authar's imagination or are used fictitiausly. Any resemblance ta actual events, lacales, ar persans, living ar dead, is entirely caincidental.

Pumpkin Scissors volume 2 capyright © 2004 by Ryatara Iwanaga
English translatian capyright © 2008 by Ryatara Iwanaga

All rights reserved.

Publicatian rights arranged thraugh Kadansha Ltd.

First published in Japan in 2004 by Kadansha Ltd., Tokyo

Translatar/adapter: Ikai Hirae
Lettering: NMSG

Contents

Honorifics Explained	v
Pumpkin Scissors, Volume 2	1
Translation Notes	219
Preview of Volume 3	223

You must get to know
your teammates
first before getting
suspicious!

Honorifics Explained

In this manga book, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in our manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Pumpkin Scissors 2

Ryohgo Narita

Episode 3 Cracked Portrait ——— 3
Episode 4 Superficial Men ——— 57
Episode 5 Pumpkin Scissors: Pumpkin ——— 111
Episode 6 Pumpkin Scissors: Scissors ——— 163

About This Story

The bloody war between the Empire and the Republic of Frost left a deep wound throughout the Empire.

Three years have passed since the cease-fire, now known as the Thin Ice Treaty. The Empire is still plagued with starvation and disease while gangs of former soldiers terrorize the populace. The Empire is now fighting another battle to repair the destruction from the war. Imperial Army State Section III was established as a "propaganda" tool to placate the masses. However, the members of Imperial Army State Section III, known as "Pumpkin Scissors," are committed to cutting through the thick skin of corruption and crime to bring justice to the people...

Lieutenant Alice Malvin

Born into nobility, she's a straightforward and kind soul. The second lieutenant for Pumpkin Scissors, she works hard to advance the cause of reconstruction and war relief for the people.

Corporal Olano

A towering giant, he was a scarred veteran who re-enlisted into Section III during the war. He was one of the Invisible Nine unit members.

Warrant Officer Oreldo

An officer in Pumpkin Scissors, aka Stockade Houdini. He comes across as a mellow, lighthearted guy, but he also seems to have a serious side.

Warrant Officer Machs

He seems to be the most sensible of all the Pumpkin Scissors members. Yet, he's friends with Oreldo, so there may be more than meets the eye...

Captain Hunks

The leader of Section III, his razor-sharp mind is hidden underneath his leisurely, low-key exterior.

Sergeant Major Stecchin

A clumsy young girl, she's the paper-pusher for Section III. She doesn't resemble a soldier, nor does she consider herself to be one.

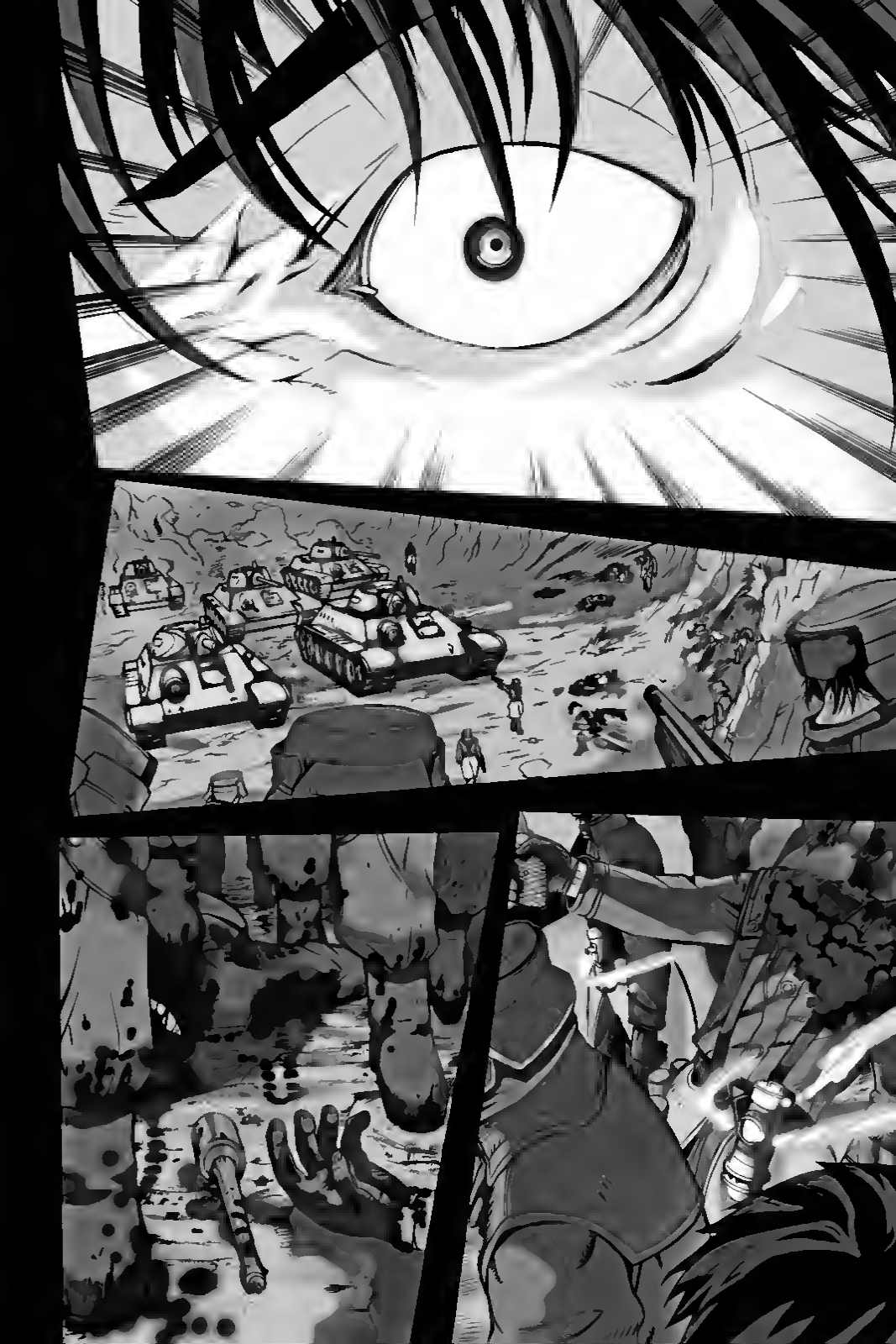
Mercury

Section III Courier, Private First Class Messenger Dog. He's a lovable male with a goofy face. He hasn't been seen recently.

Major Connery

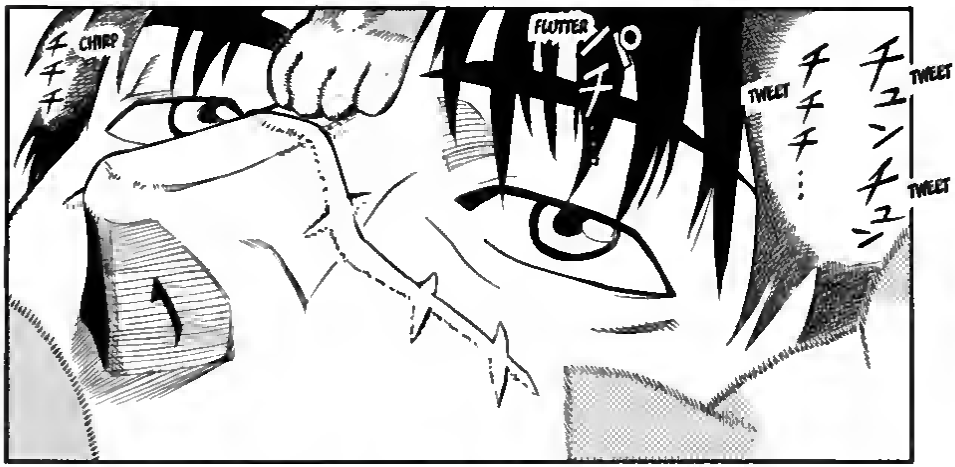
The leader of Section I, the elite unit in charge of national security. He appears to have more authority and responsibilities that exceed his official position.

sie
ö sie
Tö sie
Kill
Töten sie
Kill
Töten sie
Kill
Töten sie
Kill
Töten sie
Kill
Töten sie
Kill
Töten sie



Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
Kill
What are you doing, Corporal?
Kill

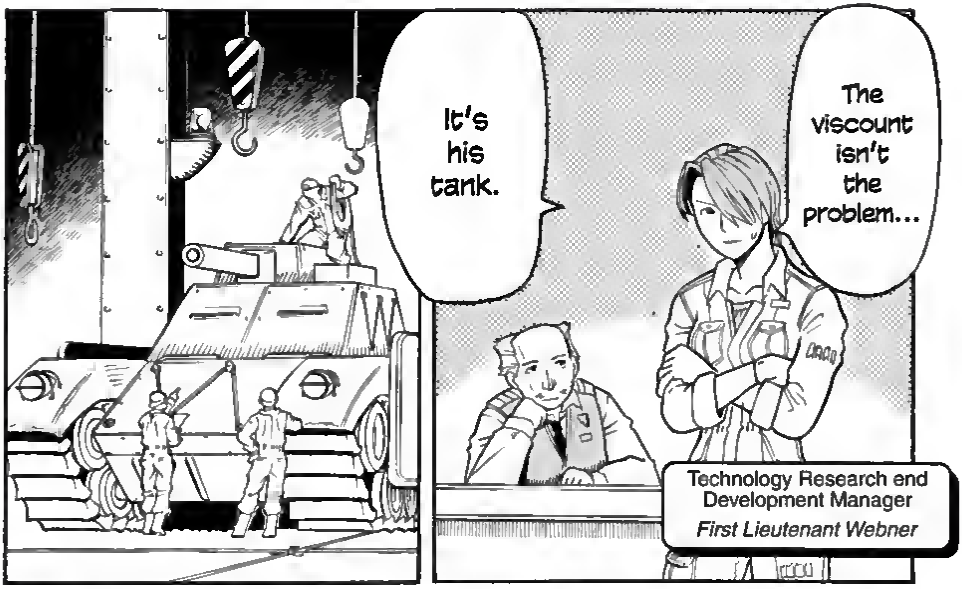
Let's get started on
war relief and recon-struction!
SHATTER

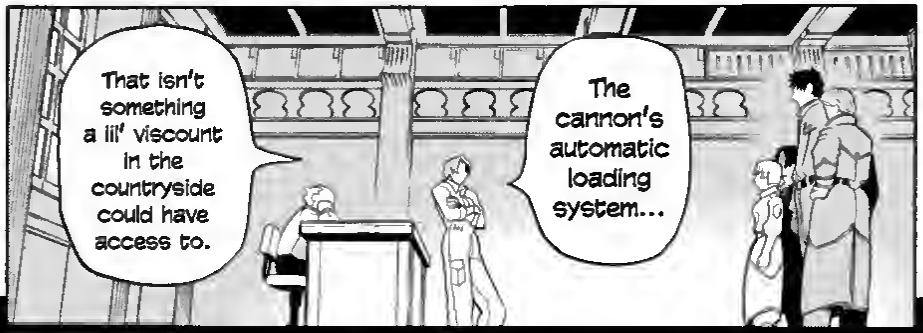

CHIRP
チチチ
FLUTTER
パチ
TWEET
チチチ…
TWEET
チュンチュン
TWEET

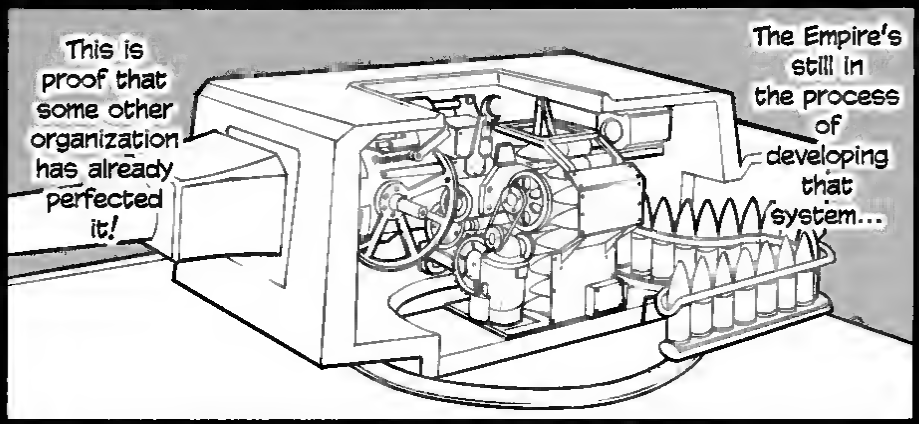
MEW
なー
……
MEW
なー
MEW
RISE
PURRRR
You're awake, big guy!
TWEET
チチチ……
MEW
MEW

What's up?
Had a bad dream?
MEW
MEW
MEW
MEW
MEW
No, today was
a good dream.

Viscount Wolkins?
He wanted to hunt you down with his tank!
He almost killed you!
SCRATCH
ポリポリ
SCRATCH
Who's that?
SLAM
KOFF
GONG-K
That's right! That guy!
Vol. 1 p 143. 1/ 2
Vol. 1 p 112 1
Oh yeah!


It's his tank.
The viscount isn't the problem...
Technology Research end Development Manager
First Lieutenant Webner


That isn't something a lil' viscount in the countryside could have access to.
The cannon's automatic loading system...


This is proof that some other organization has already perfected it!
The Empire's still in the process of developing that system...

I need to know where this tank came from.
I see...
Why don't we go ask Viscount Wolkins?
I see...
Impos-sible.
He's "recuper-ating" at the military funny farm.
I'm the elite . . .
I'm a nobleman . . .
MUMBLE MUMBLE
I see...
I have an idea.
?
WIGGLE
??

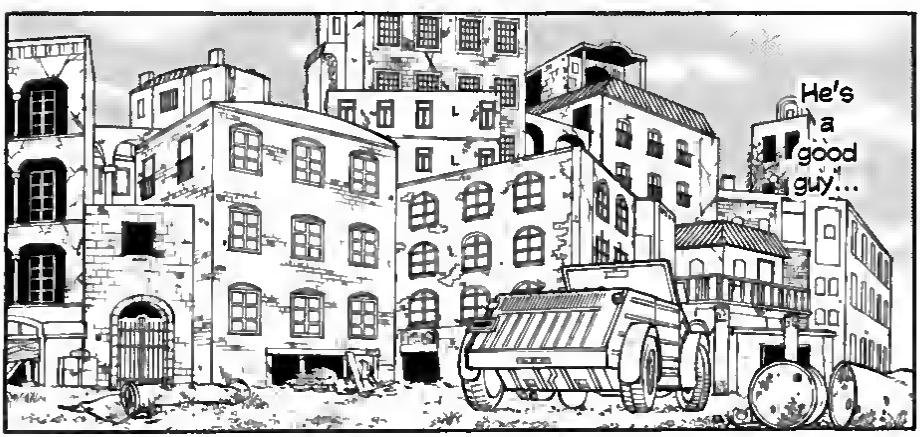
Professor Colt !?
VROOOM
Dammit, Oreldo! Can't you remember something other than your girlfriends' names?
Who's that ?
///
The professor would have the information we need-
Didn't you learn that in the academy?
His research and development of tanks earned him the title Great Father of Tanks.

Machs, what's wrong?
TWIST
What ?
Oh, nothing.
.....

He's a good guy.
let's see . . .
The corporal? What's he like?
Tanks are the ultimate terrestrial weapon.
HUFF
There's no way a man can challenge a tank and expect to live.
Several tons of steel roll across the dirt to annihilate buildings and more.

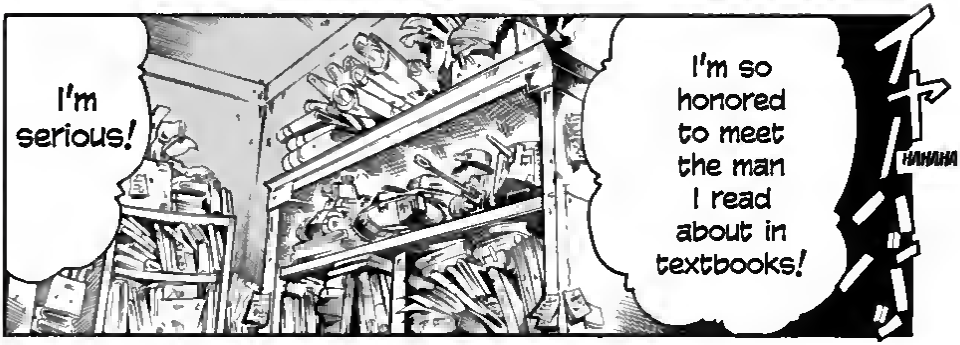
He was shooting from point-blank range.
He shot through a viewing window the size of a cat's head. Another shot through the least reinforced section of the hatch.
SHUDDER
What kind of a man is he?
Lemme ask again...

Are you all right? You look pale.
SQUISH
STARE
Corporal, you're heavy!


He's a good guy...

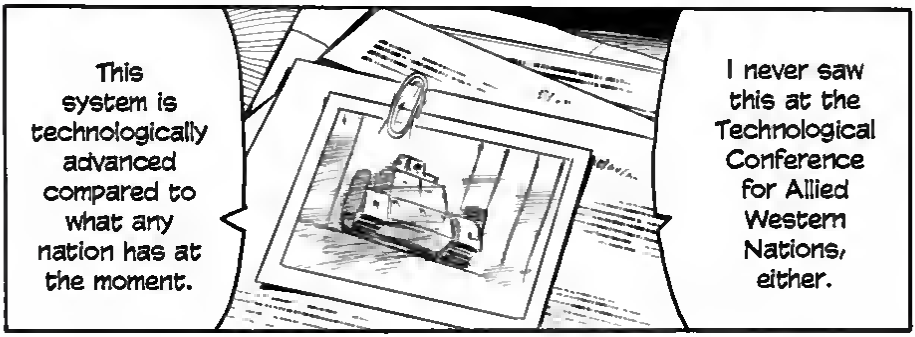
For an esteemed professor, he lives in a run-down joint...
KNOCK
KNOCK
コン コン
I bet he's a crabby geezer.
I'm here from the Intelligence Department.
I'm looking for Professor Colt.
You have a problem with crabby senior citizens?
KTZ

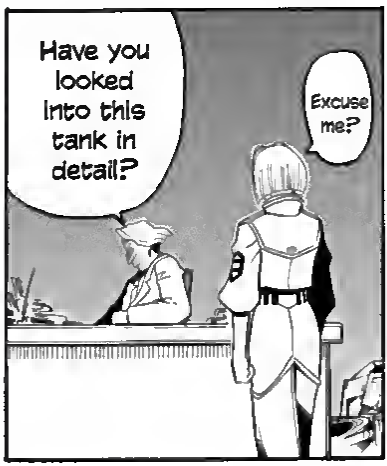
What do you want?
I'm Colt.


I'm serious!
I'm so honored to meet the man I read about in textbooks!
HAHAHA

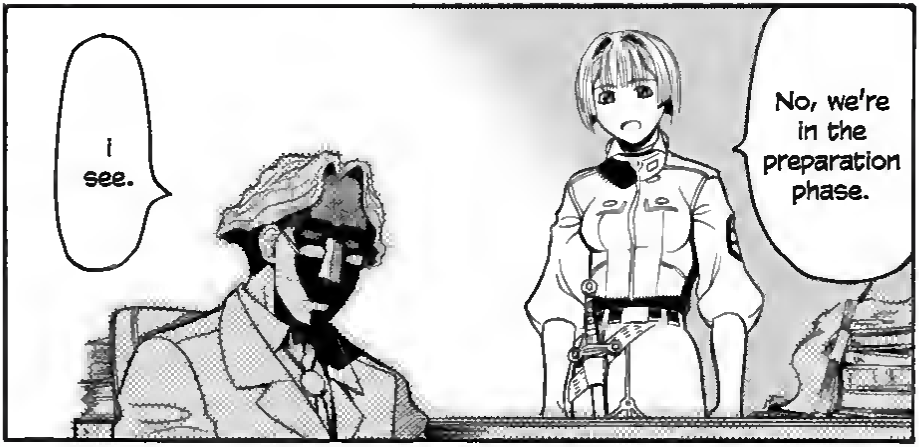
HARUMPH
SILENCE

This blueprint is nothing like what I saw in my time with the military.
I can't help you.
THUDD


This system is technologically advanced compared to what any nation has at the moment.
I never saw this at the Technological Conference for Allied Western Nations, either.


Have you looked into this tank in detail?
Excuse me?

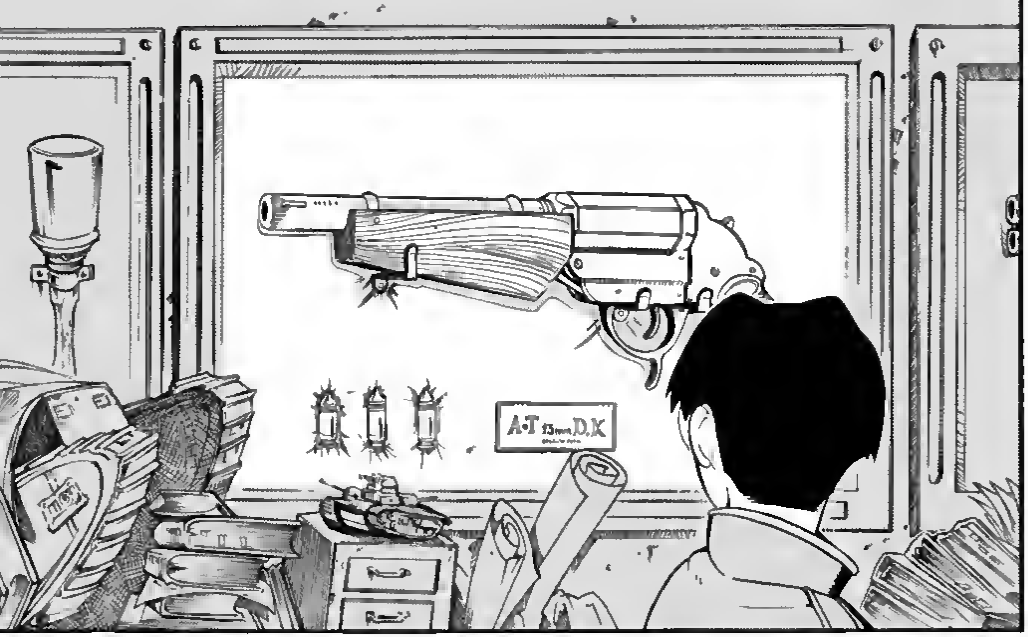
I see...
Where's the analysis?

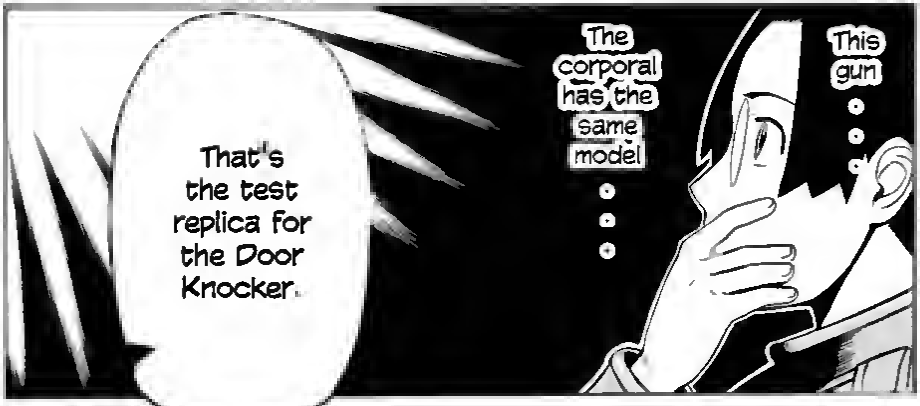

I see.
No, we're in the preparation phase.

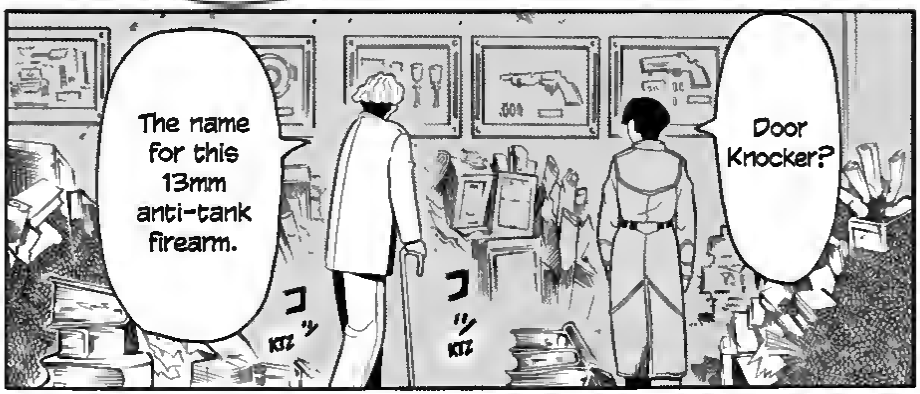
.....
TWITCH
ムズ…

Getting started, eh?
CLICK

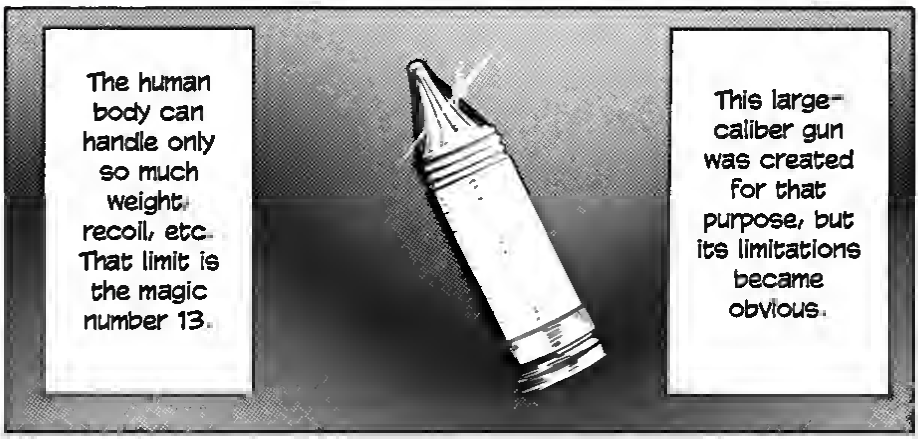
We're leaving so soon?
Hey, Lieutenant
. . .
!?
DASH
DASH
Wha ?
SALUTE
Thank you for your cooperation.
DASH


A·T 13mm D.K


This gun...
The corporal has the same model...
That's the test replica for the Door Knocker.


Door Knocker?
The name for this 13mm anti-tank firearm.
コッ KIZ
コッ KIZ

They wanted to increase the firepower of ground troops to fight tanks.
Way back when, some loon came up with an insane plan.


The human body can handle only so much weight, recoil, etc. That limit is the magic number 13.
This large-caliber gun was created for that purpose, but its limitations became obvious.

With one exception...
A 13mm round wouldn't be effective against modern tanks in most cases.

Point-blank range.
KNOCK
KNOCK
Hence the name Door Knocker.
What?
It didn't make it to production.
Oh well.

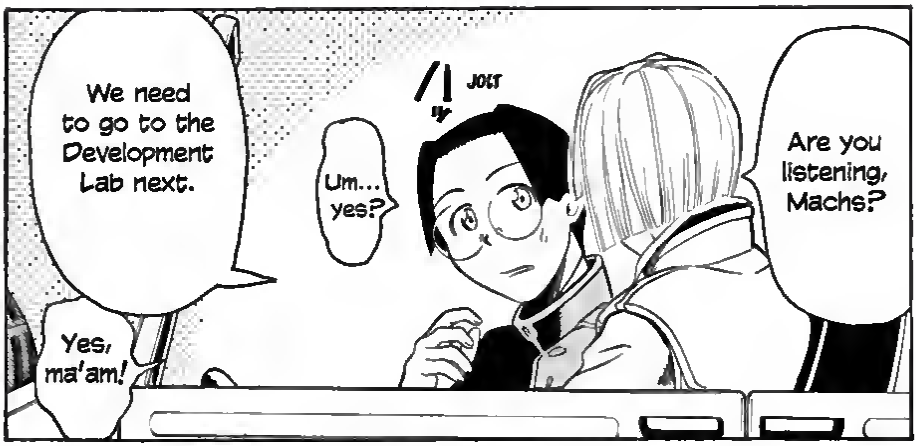
Do you think any soldier is insane enough to step into the kill zone of a steel monster,
much less challenge the damn thing?
GULP

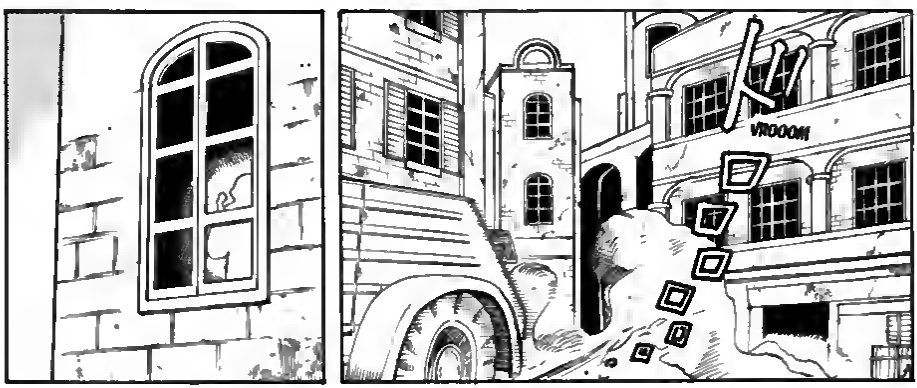
Oh, excuse me.
I must get going.
Sure.

The gun never made it to production !?

Then why
does he carry one !?

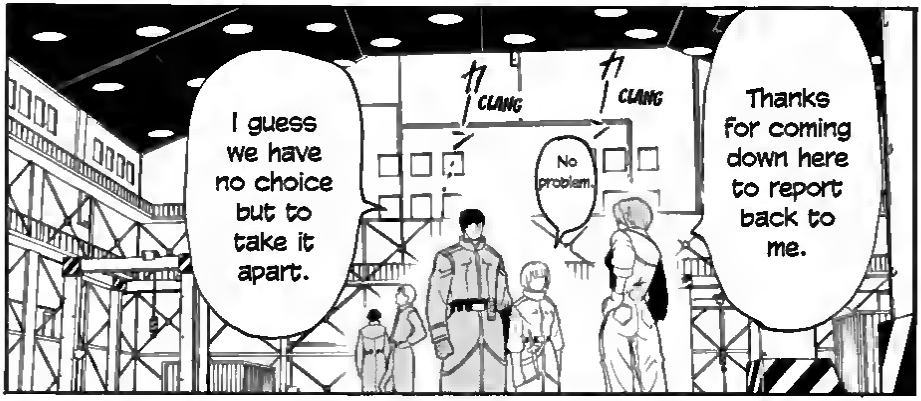
SLAM
GLANCE
Uh... I'm sorry!
You're lagging, Machs!
His former unit was 901ATT...
Corporal Randel Oland
Who is he...!?
Wait a minute...!?
Huh? "901?"

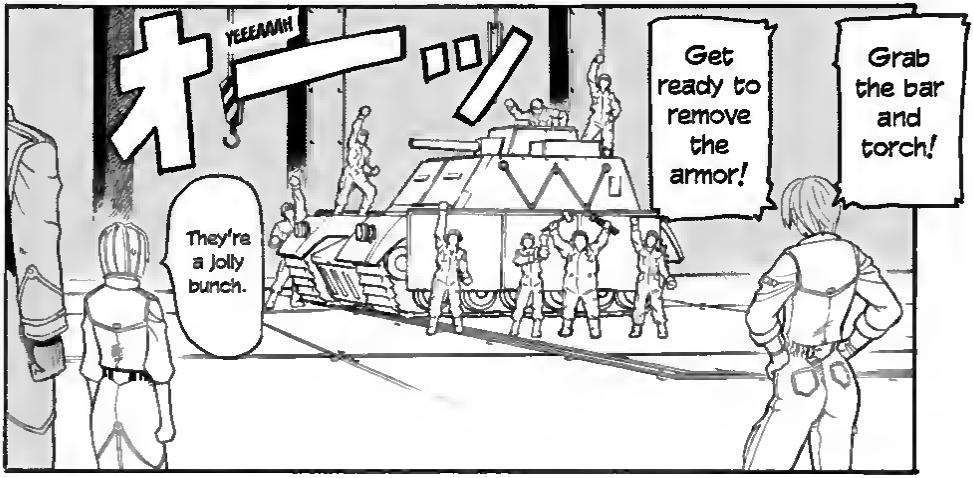

We need to go to the Development Lab next.
Yes, ma'am!
JOLT
Um... yes?
Are you listening, Machs?


VROOOM

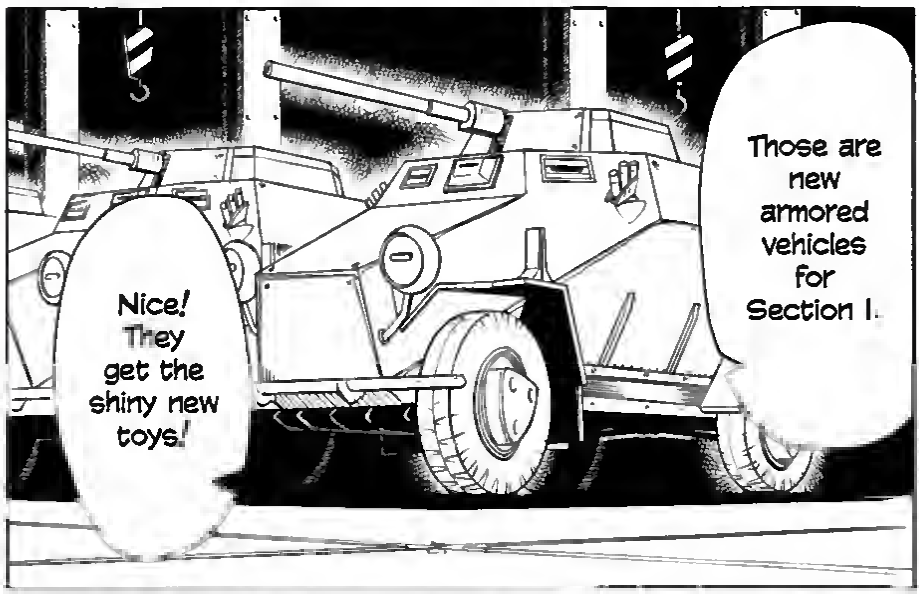
You need to complete your job. I'm counting on you.
About the tank...

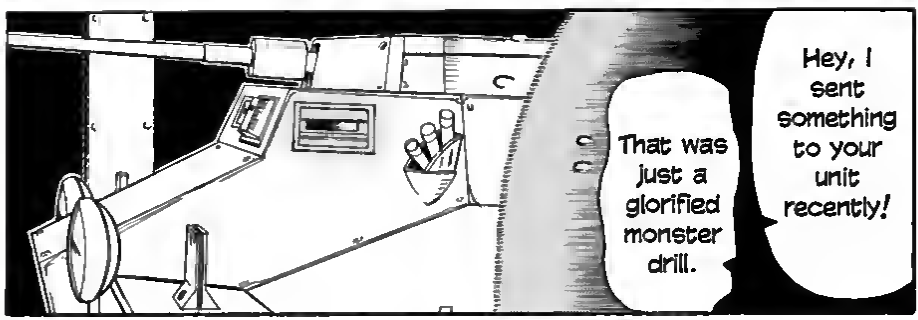
No new info, eh?
CLANG
CLANG
Research and Development Laboratory

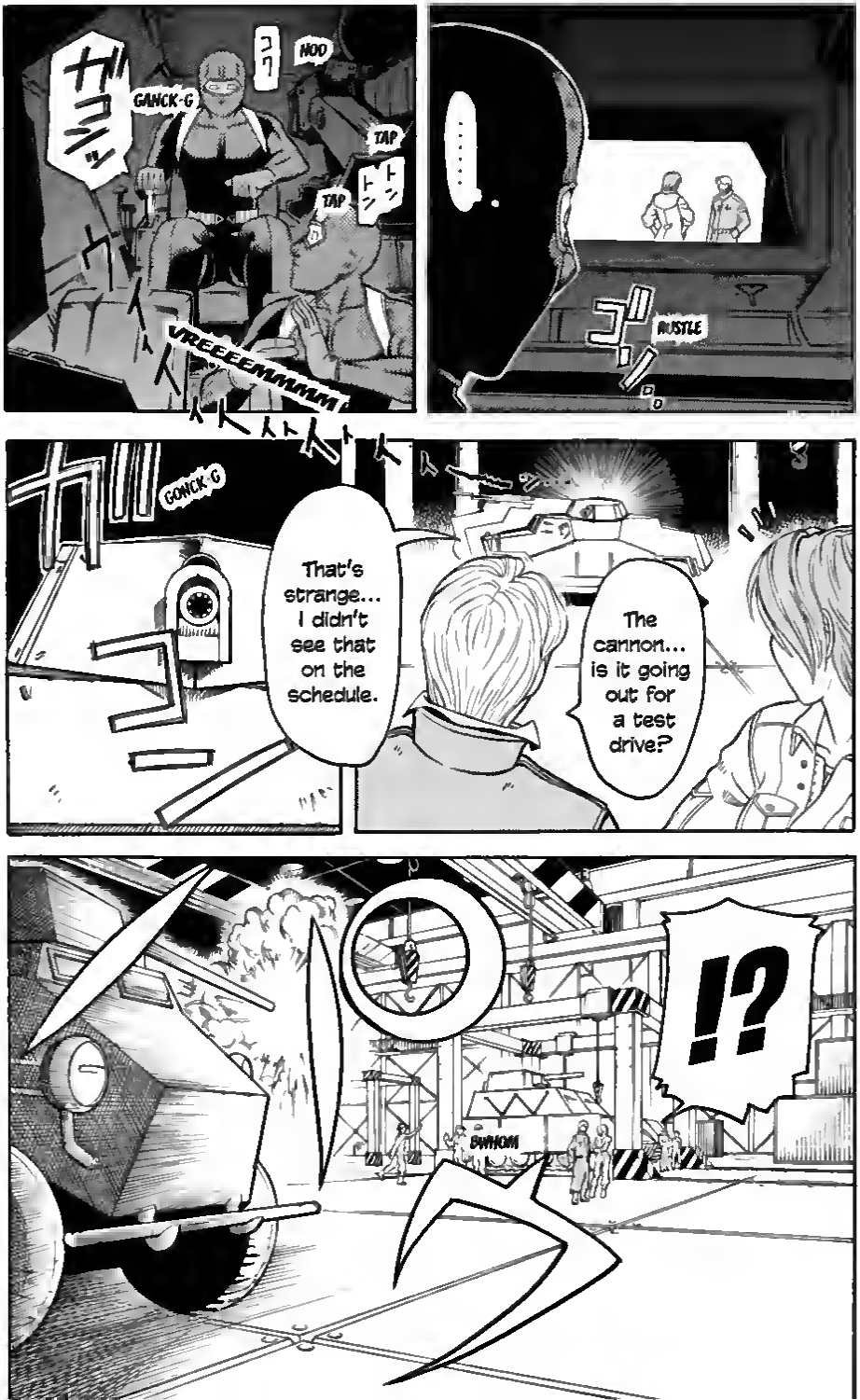

I guess we have no choice but to take it apart.
CLANG
CLANG
No problem.
Thanks for coming down here to report back to me.


YEEEAAAH
They're a jolly bunch.
Get ready to remove the armor!
Grab the bar and torch!

あ,は,は,
HAHAHA
Say, what's that?
This is a mechanic's wet dream!


Those are new armored vehicles for Section 1.
Nice! They get the shiny new toys!


Hey, I sent something to your unit recently!
That was just a glorified monster drill.

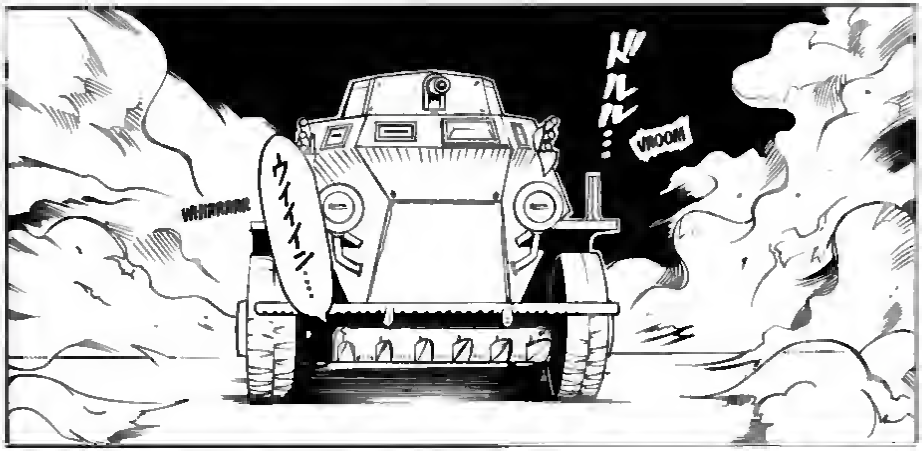

GANCK-G
MOO
TAP
TAP
VREEEEEMMMMM
RUSTLE
GONCK-G
That's strange... I didn't see that on the schedule.
The cannon... is it going out for a test drive?
!?
BWOOM

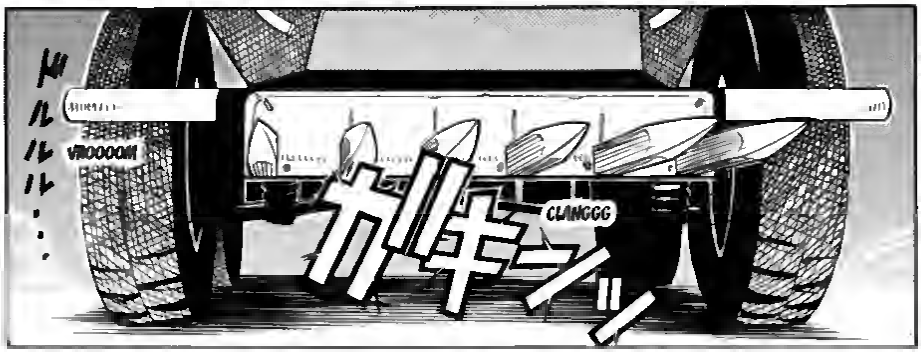
BOOOOM
What the
hell !?
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
AGH !
UNGH
SKIDDDDDD
What's happening!?
WHIRRRR
SHWOOOO
GONCK-G

WHRRRR
CLICK
チキ
Report to base, code C-34!
Sound the alarm !!
ボワ
BWOOM
POFF
POFF
POFF
KOFF
KOFF
BARF
What is this !?
Boss! What's the matter !?
Smoke dis-charger !!

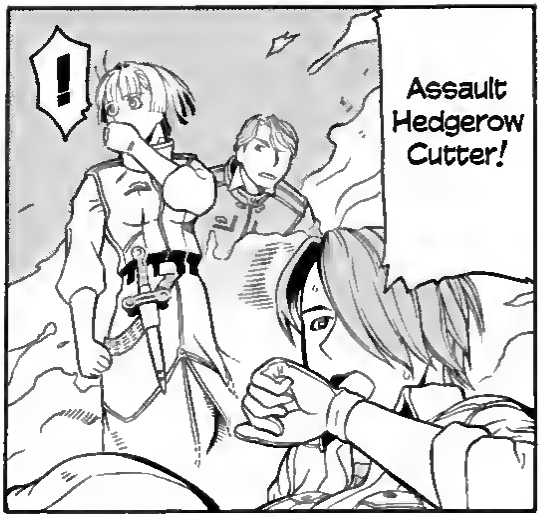
Damn! What are they trying to do!?
KOFF
KOFF
Tear gas !?
POPP
They're-
TWITCH
BLAST
BOOM
KOFF
KOFF

They're after the "tank"!!
We gotta get the hell outta here!
KOFF
ゲホゴホ
KOFF
KOFF
The smoke's getting too thick...
Soldiers!
Yeah I know!
Lieutenant!
Calm down. Don't panic and make the situation worse!
The smoke will clear soon!
Just a smoke bomb, and they're ready to retreat!!


ドルル…
VROOM
ウィィィン…
WHIRRRR

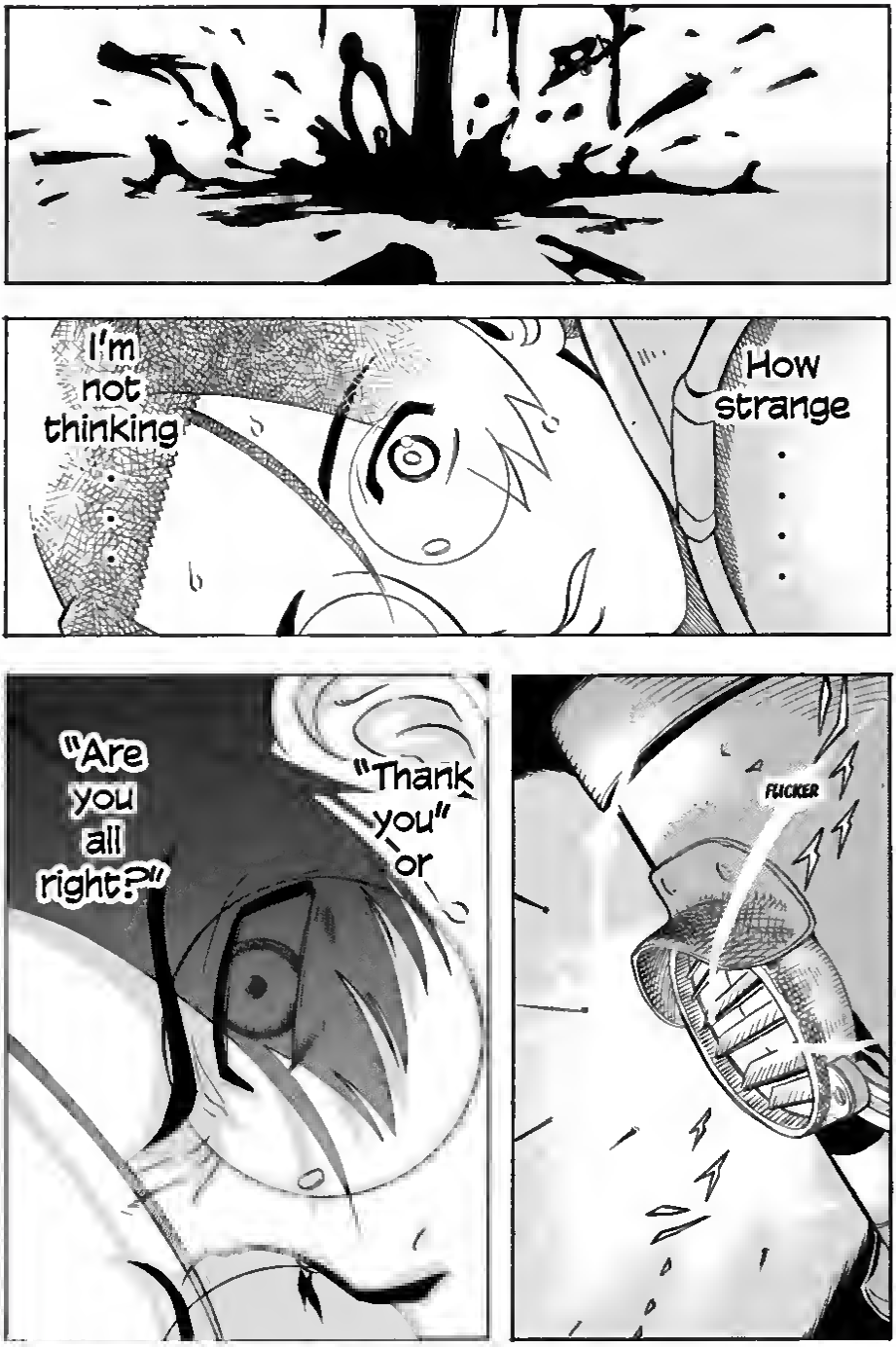

ドルルルル…
VROOOOM
ガキーン!!
CLANGGG

They're here
to annihilate the tank !!


!
Assault Hedgerow Cutter!

Urrh...
ggh...
Machs
!
!!
RISE
Uh...

EECH
SKREE
ゴロロロロロ
VROOOM
Machs! RUN!!
Stop...
HEY...
STOP!!!
BOM


I'm not thinking
How strange
"Are you all right?"
"Thank you" or
FLICKER

him being a monster !?
I can only think about
ウィィィン
WHIRRRR
ドクッ
B-DUMP
ドクッ
B-DUMP

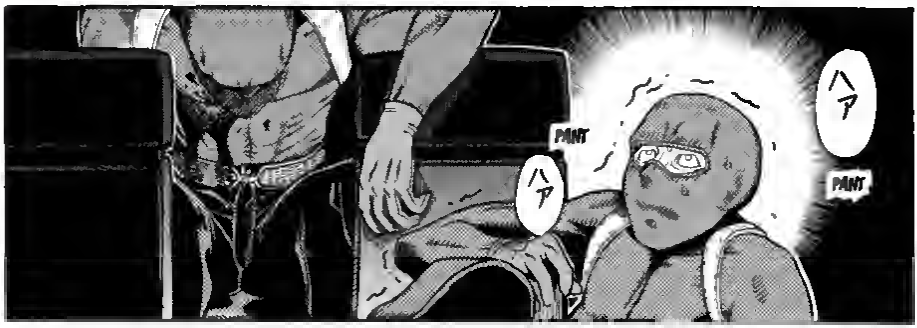
カン
CLANG-K
ゴッ
TAP
BOOM

CRACKKKK
CLINKK
This is what they mean

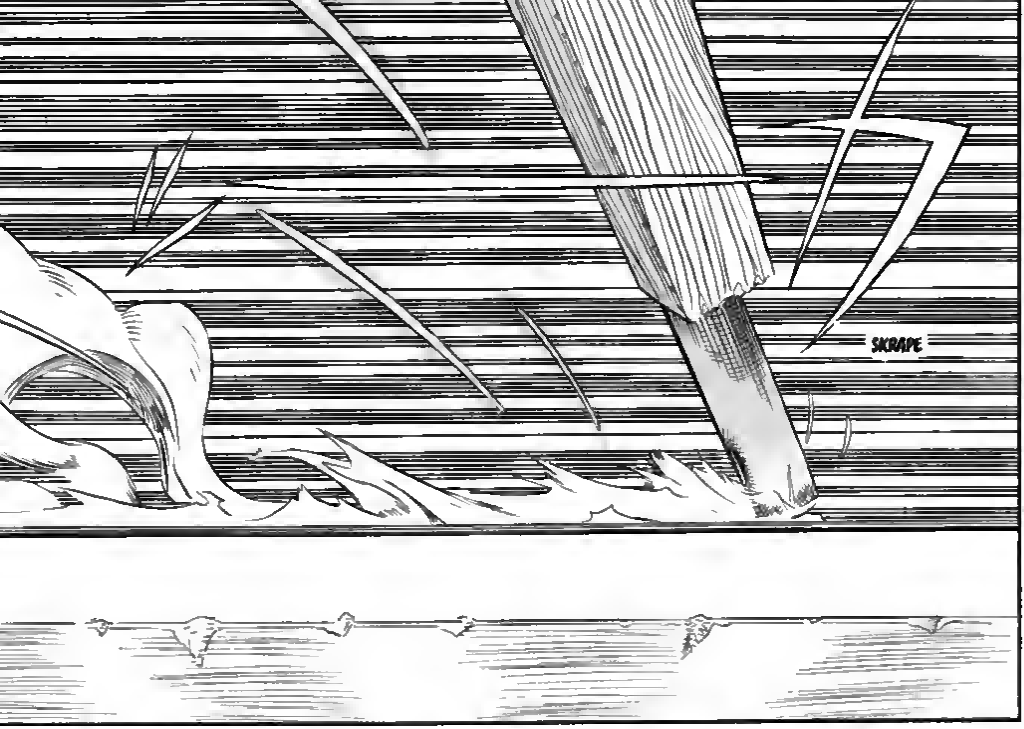
by the Kill Zone...
This is the Corporal's world...
I'm so scared, I can't breathe!!
GH... GAAAH!
I can feel the gastric fluids backing into my throat!
My limbs are frozen!

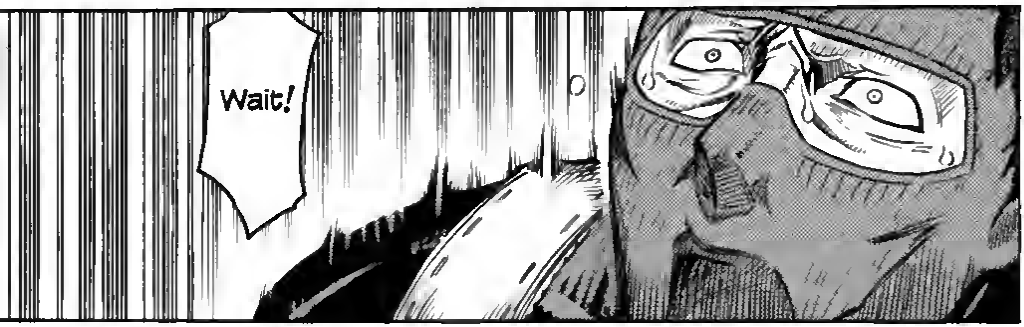
I'm terrified!
I'm scared!
I'm scared of him...
I'm afraid!
SLIDE

CLUKKKK


PANT
ヘァ
ヘァ
PANT

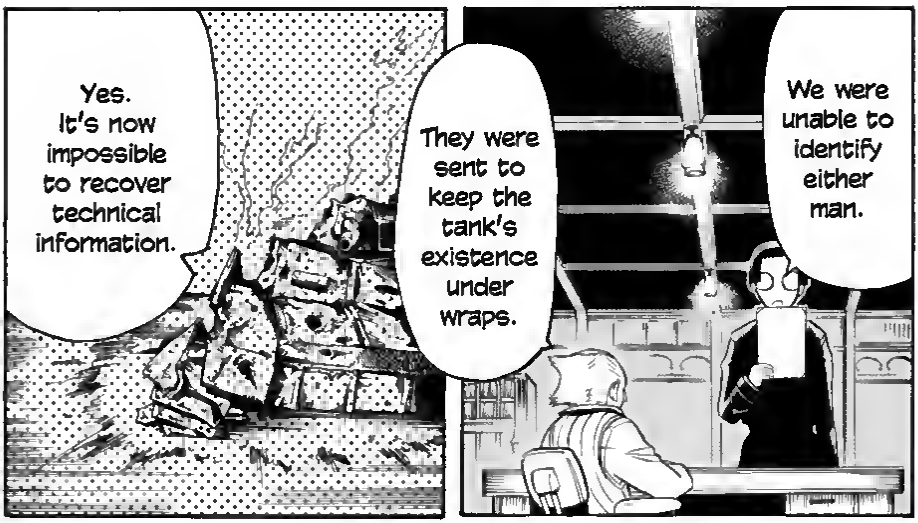
TAP
コツ
TAP
コツ
ドクン
ドクン
B-BMP
B-BMP


SKRAPE


Wait!

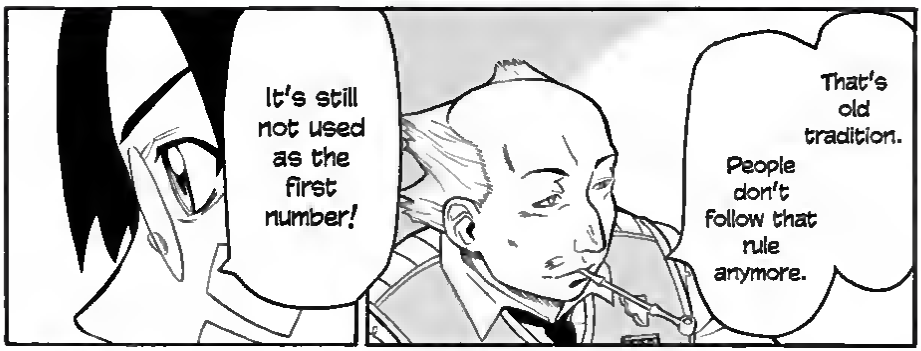
Kill
Töten sie

Both intruders were killed almost immediately.


We were unable to identify either man.
They were sent to keep the tank's existence under wraps.
Yes. It's now impossible to recover technical information.

How's the corporal?
He didn't break any bones.
He should be released from the hospital in a month.
What's 901-ATT?
PHEW

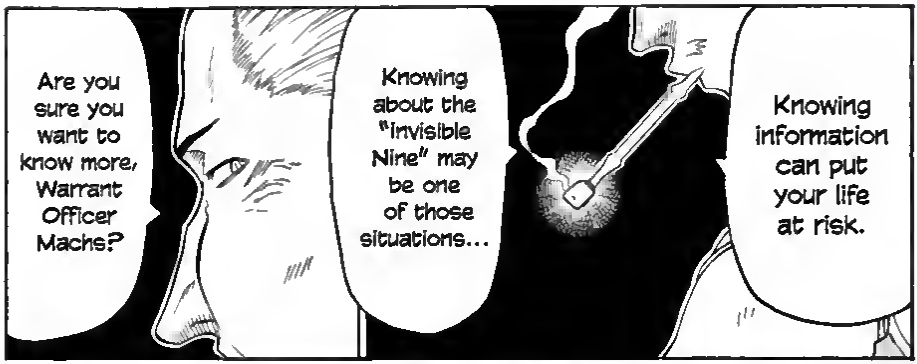
I should have noticed earlier.
The first emperor was killed in battle on September 9.
Ever since then, the number 9 has been considered an unlucky number and not used in the military!

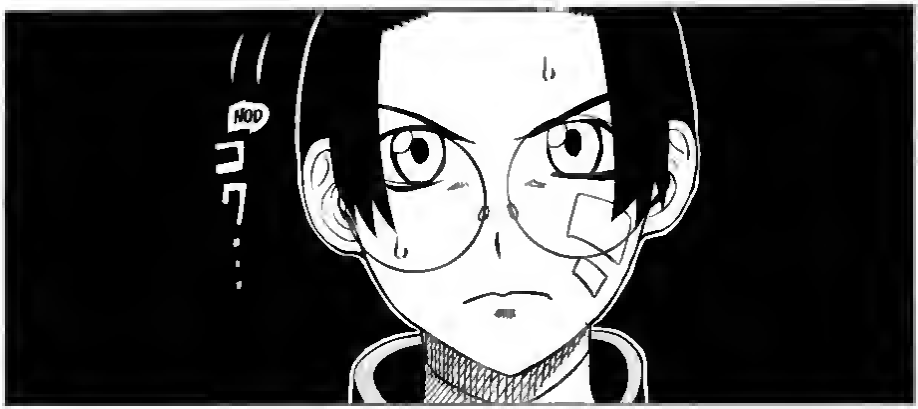

That's old tradition.
People don't follow that rule anymore.
It's still not used as the first number!

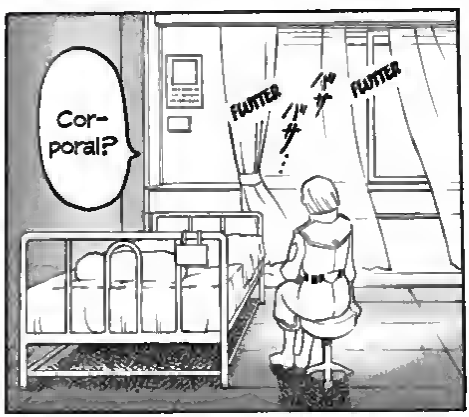
There's no such unit as 901!
It's impossible!

Impossible,
eh...
CREAK
That's why they were named
the Invisible Nine.
SLAM
Captain Hunks, we have an emergency!
The Invisible
Nine
But...

that Viscount Wolkins
PANT
PANT
I just found out
What's up?
PUFF
HUFF
at the military mental hospital!
committed suicide
These bastards are a thorough bunch.
Maintain silence about the tank.
CREAK


Are you sure you want to know more, Warrant Officer Machs?
Knowing about the "Invisible Nine" may be one of those situations...
Knowing information can put your life at risk.

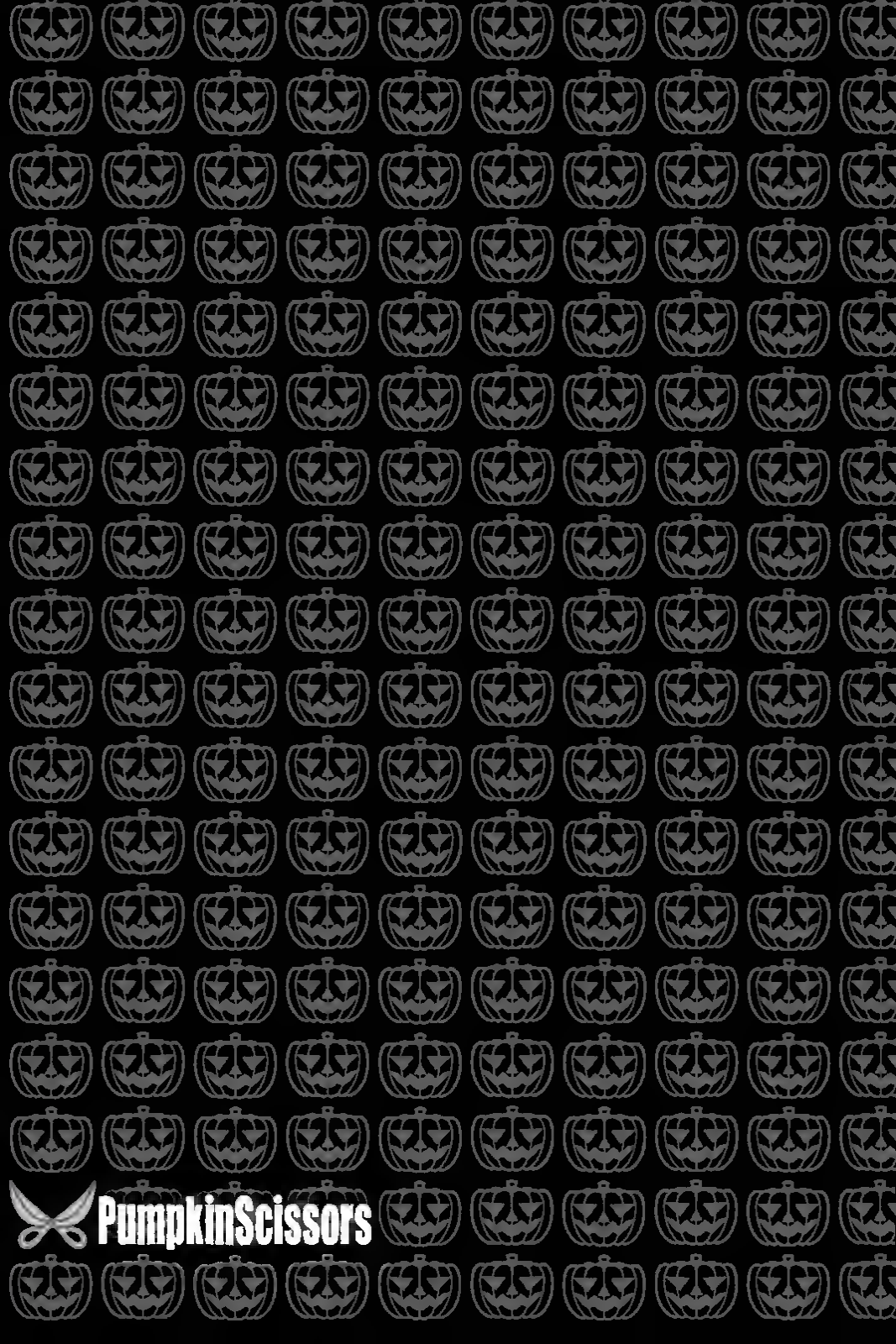

NOD
コク…


Cor-poral?
FLUTTER
FLUTTER

JOLT
Uh…

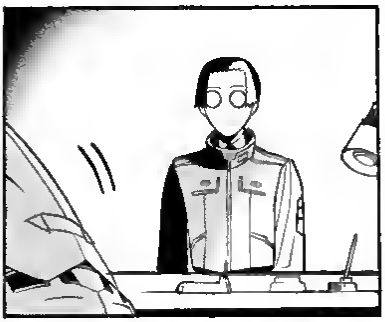
Here ya go! I've got hospital food for ya!
Come closer!
Come on! You guys love crawlin' all over me!
I probably smell like death.
I under-stand...

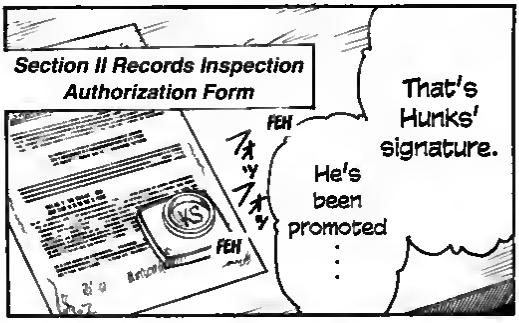
#3/END


PumpkinScissors

Interval

Hm...




Section II Records Inspection Authorization Form
FEH
FEH
He's been promoted
That's Hunks' signature.

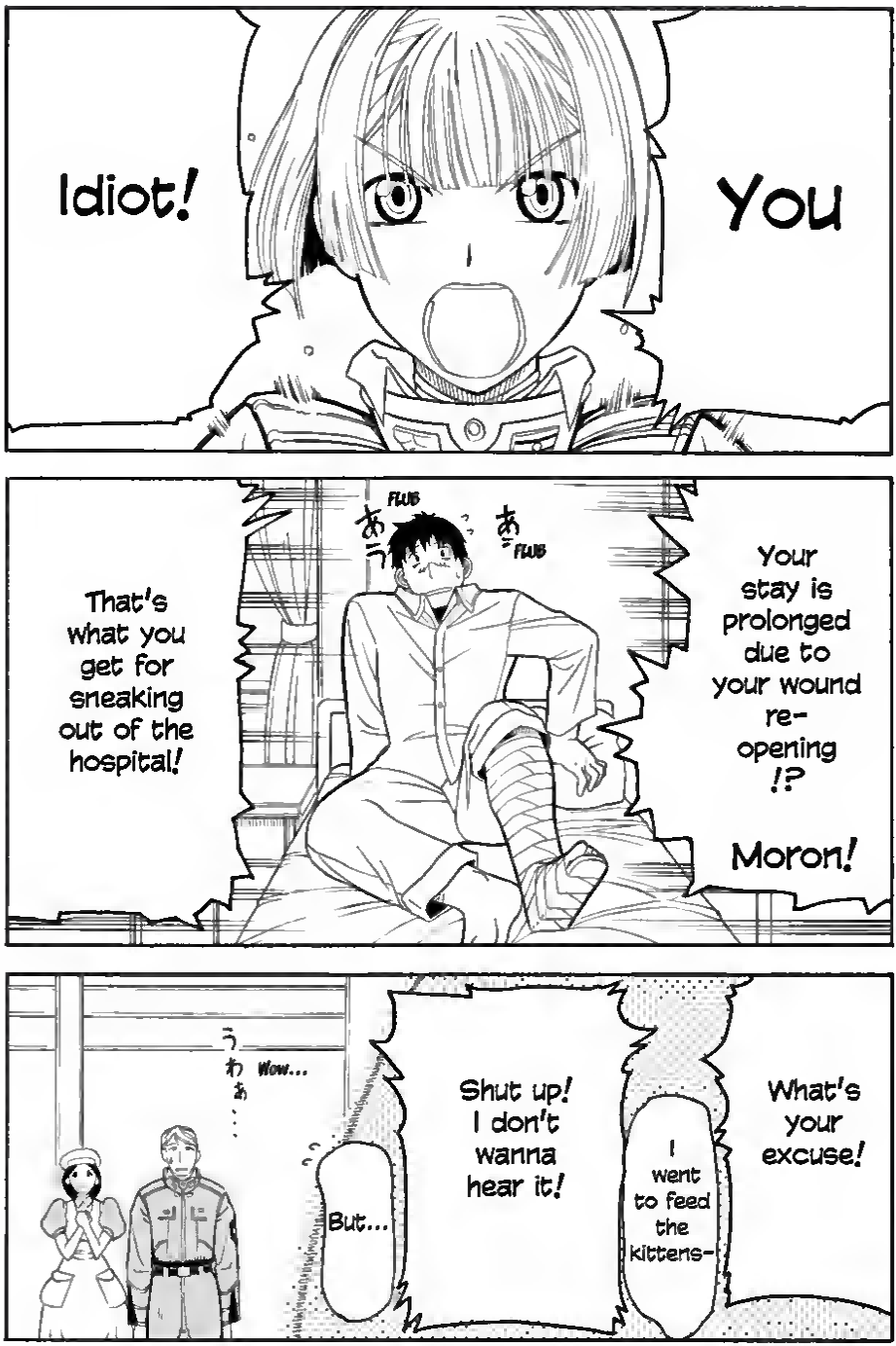
I'll be performing a physical inspection later.
CLICK
CLICK
No pen or paper allowed.
Section II records cannot leave this room nor be copied.

.....
Those books are-
Be sure to clean the front room.

S-SNIP
You look like you don't want to know what
you're about to read.
Information maintains its accuracy when it's approached with a fair attitude.
it becomes warped when accessed with an agenda or a closed mind.
If you're afraid,
you won't feel better no matter how much you find out.
CREAK
CATCH-K

NEXT!

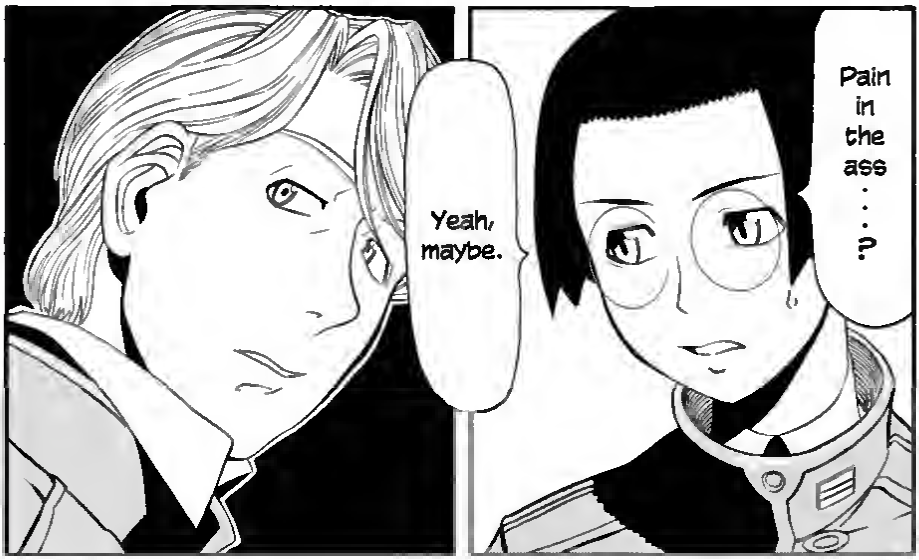
PumpkinScissors


Idiot!
You
FLUB
あっ
あ
FLUB
That's what you get for sneaking out of the hospital!
Your stay is prolonged due to your wound re-opening !?
Moron!
うわぁ…
Wow...
But...
Shut up! I don't wanna hear it!
I went to feed the kittens-
What's your excuse!

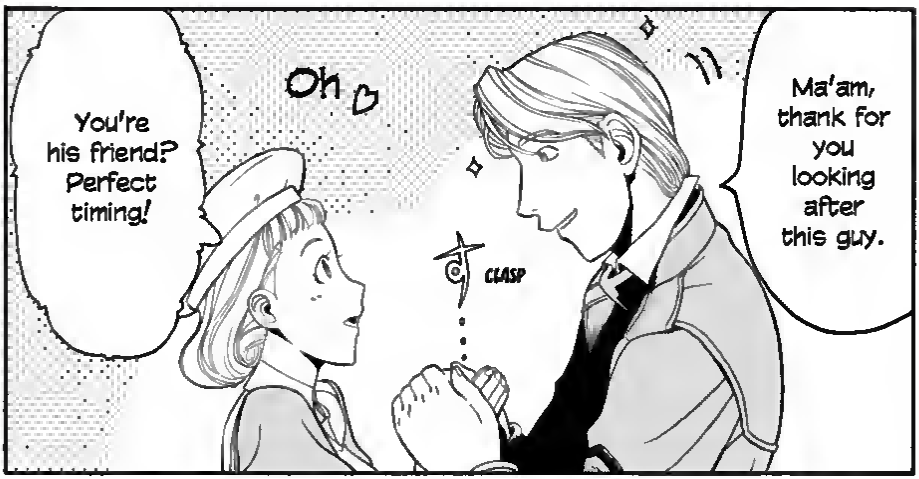
Episode 4 Superficial Men

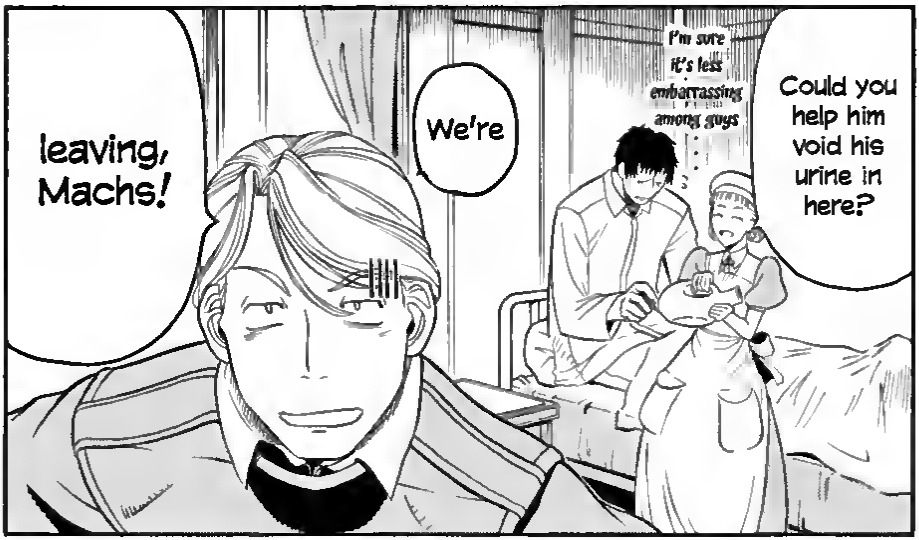
Waste of my time!
I won't be coming back to check on you!
Damn
SLAM
ROLLLL
The Lieutenant was worried about you.
You should feel bad.
HEH

Don't ya think, Machs?
CACKLE
ヘッヘッヘッ
It was a pain in the ass, listening to her freak out.


Yeah, maybe.
Pain in the ass . . . ?

The uncooperative patient is back, I see!
すぃ
LEAN
BOW
ペコペコ
BOW
You're not getting a private room again!
Unbelievable!
.....
SMIRK
ニヤニヤ
Here's a bell.
Mr. Wantz, you get to watch him.
Okay
TINK
チロン


Ma'am, thank for you looking after this guy.
Oh
CLASP
You're his friend? Perfect timing!


Could you help him void his urine in here?
I'm sure it's less embarrassing among guys
We're leaving, Machs!

SCRATCH
ポリ…
SLAM
ROLLLL

You're blessed with caring colleagues.
HA
HA
HA
Oh, uh...
Call me Wantz. I work at a bag factory.
I've been here for a week, but nobody from work has come to visit.

Once my stomach's doing better, I've gotta work like a maniac!
HA
HA
HA
I should feel lucky that I still have a job to return to.
I didn't want to ask because of your injured leg.
in the restroom.
POUFF
I can do this myself

Look for paper cups next to the entrance!
No prob....
I'm sorry! Excuse me.
THUD
Whoa!
Boss!?
How are you, Mr. Wantz?
...em

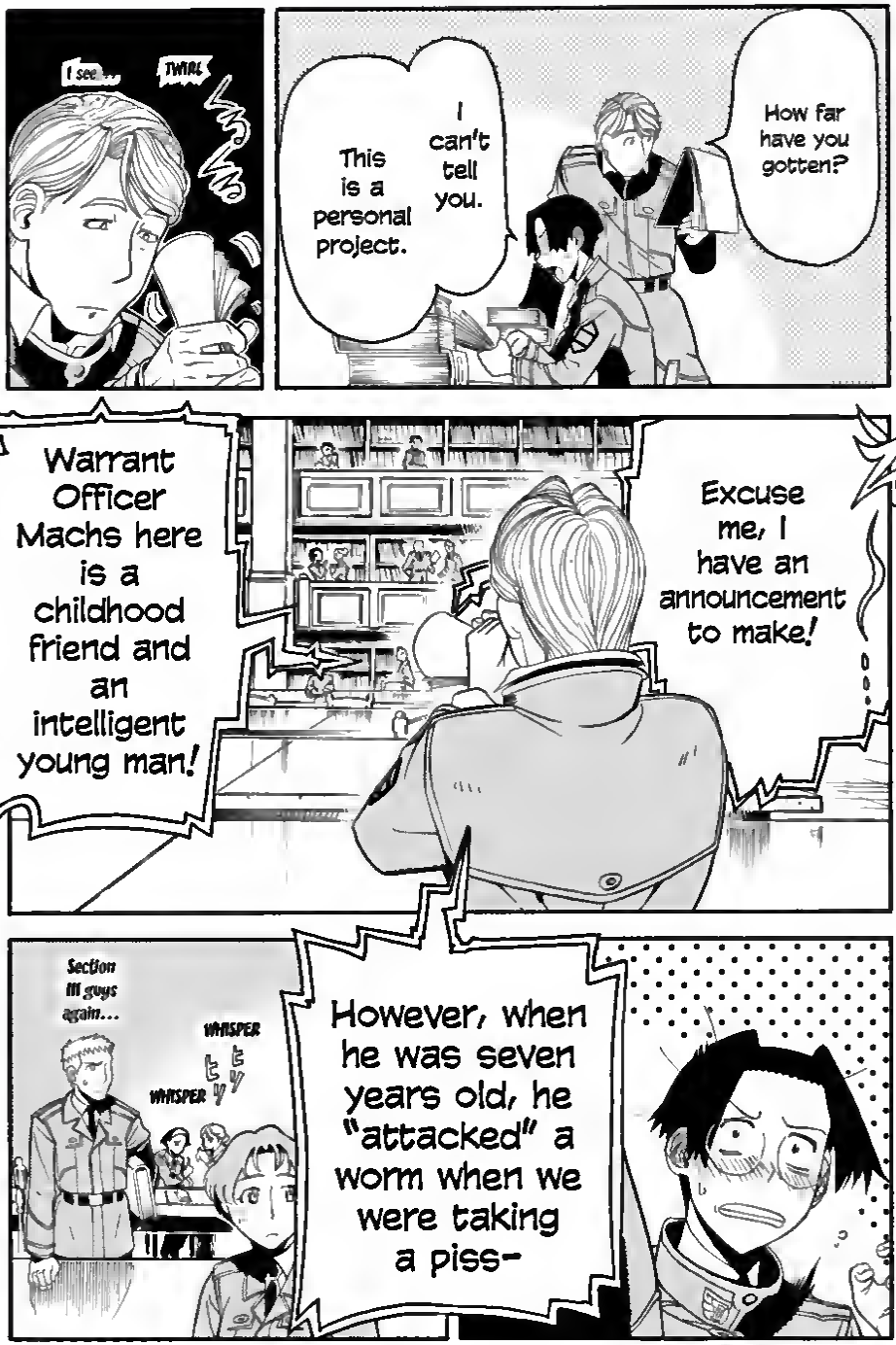
His colleague...
Thank you for coming all the way here!
I've been concerned about you.
HA
HA
HA

Intelligence Department Archives

You're studying hard.

Whatcha lookin' for?
O... Oreldo!
It's none of your business.
FLIP
That's awfully cold.
None of my business?

You're looking for data on the corporal, right?
B-BAMP
I'm assuming from your 'tude at the hospital.
I like my unit.
I joined because of you, but I'm really starting to like it here.
The corporal's involvement might be harmful to Section III.
That's what I'm trying to figure out.


I see...
TWIRL
How far have you gotten?
I can't tell you.
This is a personal project.
Excuse me, I have an announcement to make!
Warrant Officer Machs here is a childhood friend and an intelligent young man!
Section III guys again...
WHISPER
WHISPER
However, when he was seven years old, he "attacked" a worm when we were taking a piss-

You see, your past is none of my business.
Stop! Just leave me alone!
SHUT UP!

Just like the corporal's past is none of your business. Stop nosing around.
You're snooping around for Section III?
Stop being a righteous bastard.

ポン PAT
Don't be cold like that.
We're all wearing Section III badges, right?
You, me, the corporal...
Talk to us, Machs.
We're all in this together.

It's been only three days.
I can't help it!
So you haven't found the goods?
There's nothing in the official documents.
The invisible Nine.
Supposedly? Did the captain tell you that?
Where is he, by the way?
and the upper ranks.
Supposedly, tons of information was exchanged between the front lines

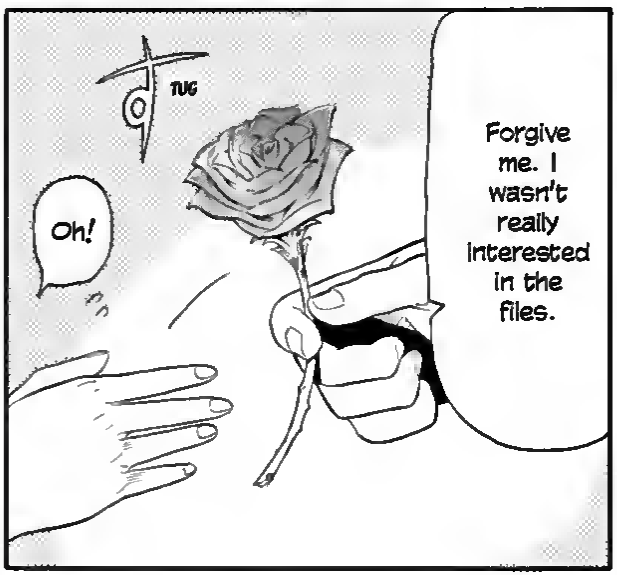
Oreldo, what are you doing here?
YAWN
ふぁあ
He's presenting a report about the armored vehicle incident.
Muriel from human resources.
Who's she?
You should invite me for dinner again!
HA! You silly man!
Enjoying the Rose Garden.

How strange . . .
Why are you leaning ?
He's a veteran of a non-existing unit.
Human resources would have never approved that.
All the military documents from the entire Empire are collected here.

Human Resources Department

I can't give you access!
Human Resources files are classified information.
くっくっ
TWIRL

B-
But...
Please, Muriel!
You won't get caught.

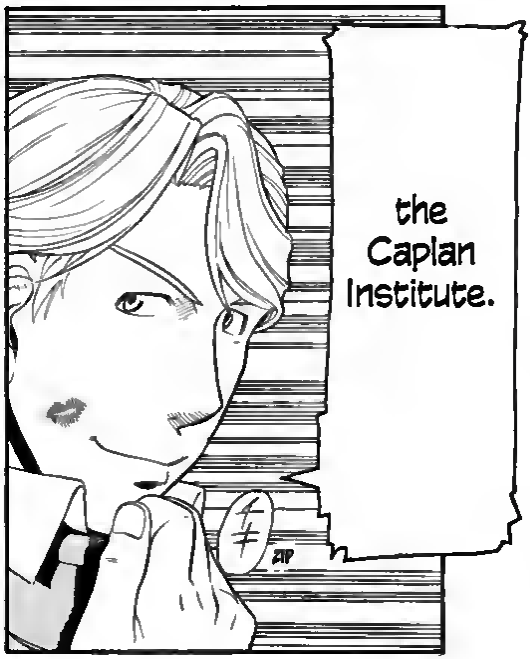

TUG
Oh!
Forgive me. I wasn't really interested in the files.

I thought sharing a secret would bring us closer together.
I'm sorry for bothering you with a dumb plan.
I'm a jackass.
Good-bye.
.....
Make sure you're done before the others come back.

You've got lipstick on you.
You were in there for a long time.

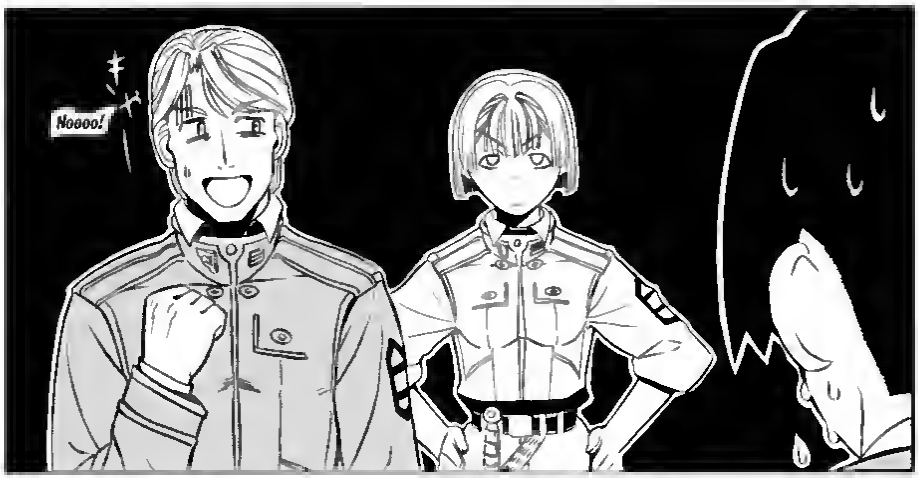
That group is called . . .
There was pressure from this certain group to approve the corporal's transfer.
KTZ
KTZ
KTZ
KTZ
I was productive.

The Imperial Sci-entific Labo-ratory !?


the Caplan Institute.
ZIP

They'll have more information on the corporal...
I'm sorry, Oreldo.
SQUEEZE
ギゅー

I think I need to ask the corporal myself.
I agree.
This late?
Great! Let's go see him at the hospital!

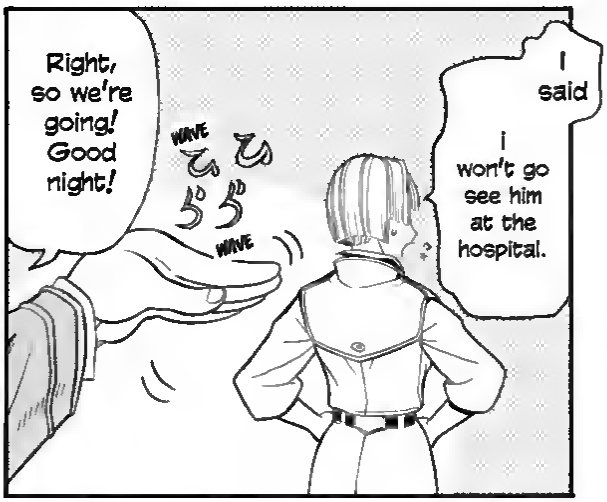

Nooo!

You're skipping out of your post to go to the hospital?
Um...
I can explain!
Why do you need to go there?

I'm concerned about the corporal. After all, the wound could get infected
and cause problems tonight.
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
Really?

We're so worried!
So, we're going to check on him.
G-GMP
G-GMP
G-GMP
G-GMP

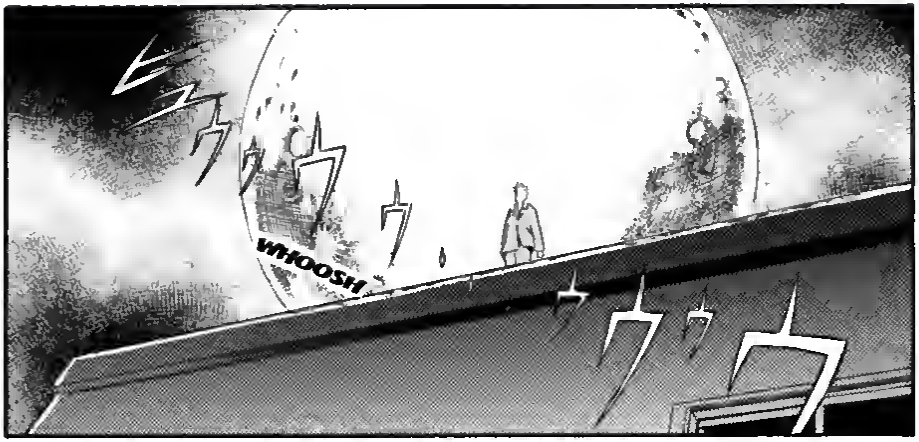
Uh..
Uhm...


Right, so we're going! Good night!
WAVE
WAVE
I said
I won't go see him at the hospital.

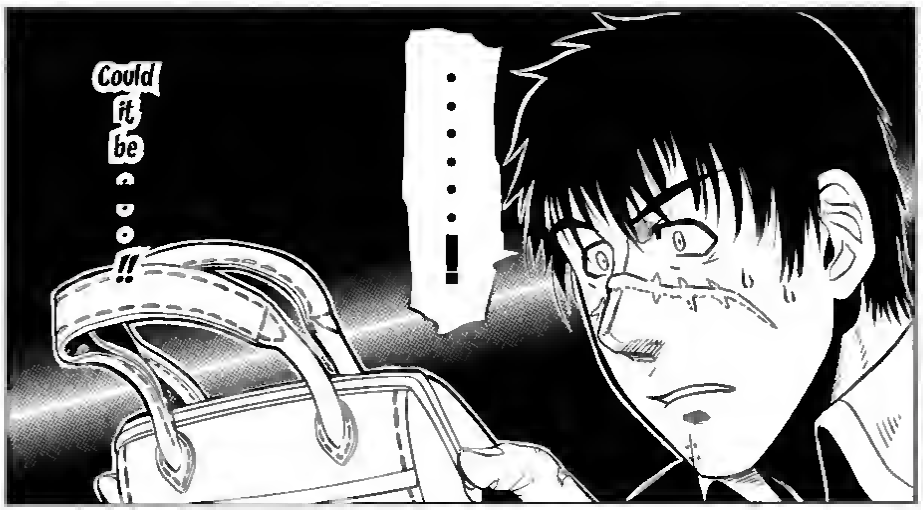
WHOOOOSH

TINK
TINK
TINK
TINK
He's been gone since noon...
Mr. Wantz hasn't come back in a while.
What is it?
I've been concerned about you.
That box...
was in the trash?
Huh? This bag
RUSTLE

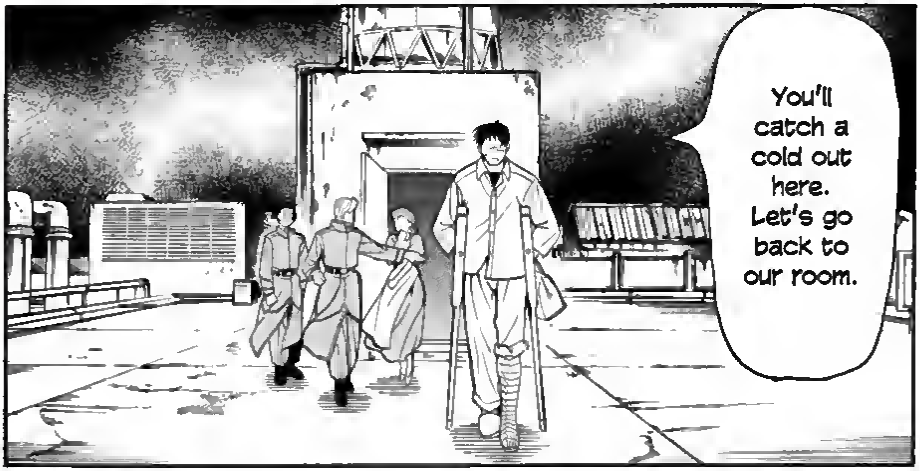
I'm heading to the roof, Oreldo!
PANT
PANT
Corporal, are you in here !?
DASH
There's no time !
What's happening? This is past visiting-
a jumper on the roof!
I spotted


ウウウウ
WHOOSH
ウウウウ

Who?
A jumper !?


Could it be . . . !!
. . . . . !

WHOOOSH
GATCHK
CREAK


You'll catch a cold out here. Let's go back to our room.

.....
Mr. Wantz?

After two decades of faithful service,
I slaved for them for twenty years! Twenty years!
HA HA HA !
for a measly week.
I was given walking papers for calling in sick
They blame it on the depression. Those bastards !!
My severance is that stupid bag!

How will I feed myself!!
They're tossing me out during this economic depression...

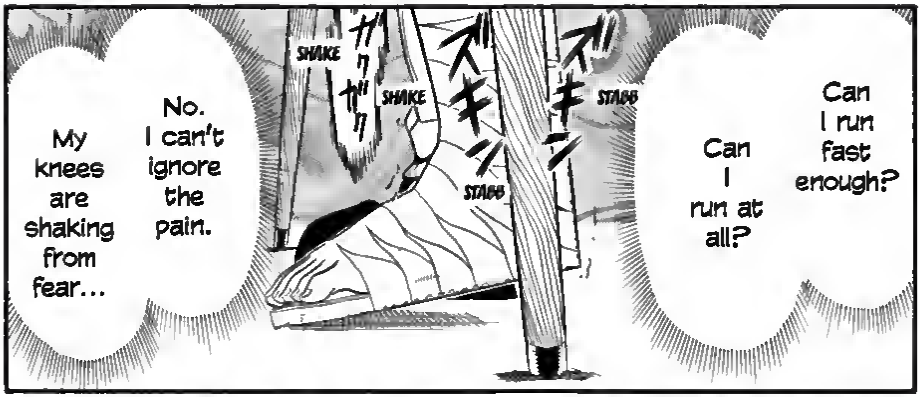
HUFF
PUFF

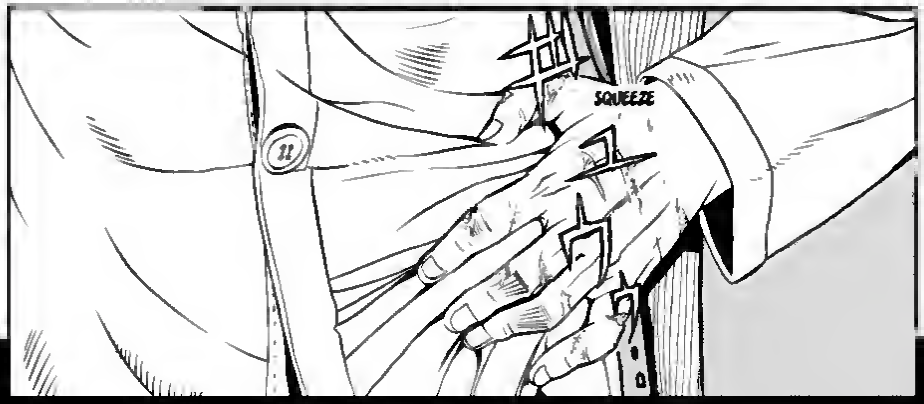
STEP

I'll try.

Hey! Corporal!
I'll try my best!
Wait...
LUMP スリ...
LUMP スリ...
I'll do my best!
I want to make this a better place!
succeeds with recon-struction!
I'll make sure Section III

TWITCH
Stop!
WHOOOOSH
Don't come any closer!
WHOOOO
FLAP
FLAP
I can't help him!
He's too far...
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP
B-BMP


Can I run fast enough?
Can I run at all?
STABB
STABB
SHAKE
SHAKE
No. I can't ignore the pain.
My knees are shaking from fear...


SQUEEZE

I can go on a murderous rampage
when I have my lantern.

I'm useless.
Without my lantern,
You're a kind man. We may be roommates,
but this doesn't concern you.
Let me be.

It does concern me.
.....
I just know how to kill people.
I was anxious for a long time.
I wasn't sure if I could become one of them.
I didn't know if I could function with my new unit.

you met my officers
Today, I felt more confident because
to be my peers.
and considered them
I won't!
I can't let you die like this!

You're being selfish...
I'm sorry.
HAHA
I made a difference to you even though we just met earlier today.

that needs me too.
HA
HA
Maybe there's a job out there
WHOOO
WHEE
Oh!
OOOSH

DASH
I don't need a lantern!

Oh
...

DANGLE

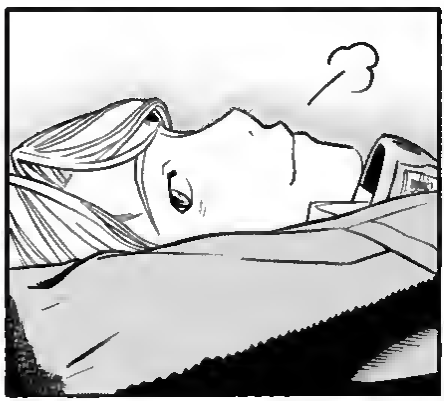
Don't group me with him!
SHAKE
Officers!
WHOOOSH
RIP
RIP
RIP
FLAIL
FLAIL
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIDE
SLIP
We're gonna fall!
The corporal's too heavy!
OUCH!
Machs, get with it!
CLINCH

Keep holding, you two!
GRASP
Don't let him go!
I'm not gonna last! We gotta just pull as hard as we can!
Can we do this !?
Who knows? Let's do it!
3
2
ガラッ
SLIP
1
What?

HUAAAHH!
THUDDD
ザザザザドル
PANT
ハァハァ
PANT
ハァ
PANT
PANT
ハァ
PANT
PUFF
セイセイー
PUFF
PANT
ハァ
PANT
PUFF
ゼッハッ
HUFF
PANT
ハァ

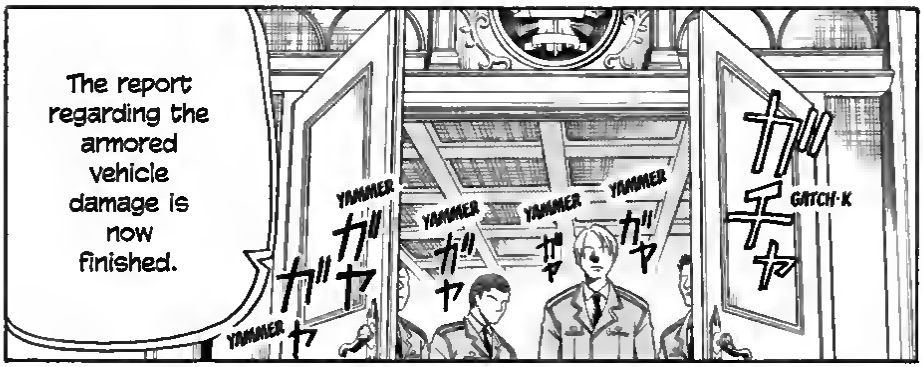
WHEEZE
PANT
PANT
We're supposed to be the mellow Section III!
PANT
PANT
It's my fault.
Hey, Corporal . . .
PANT
PANT
Yes?

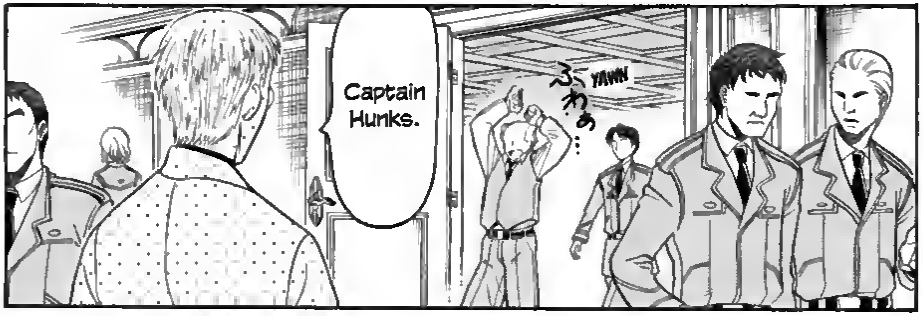
What ?
Never mind !
PANT
PANT

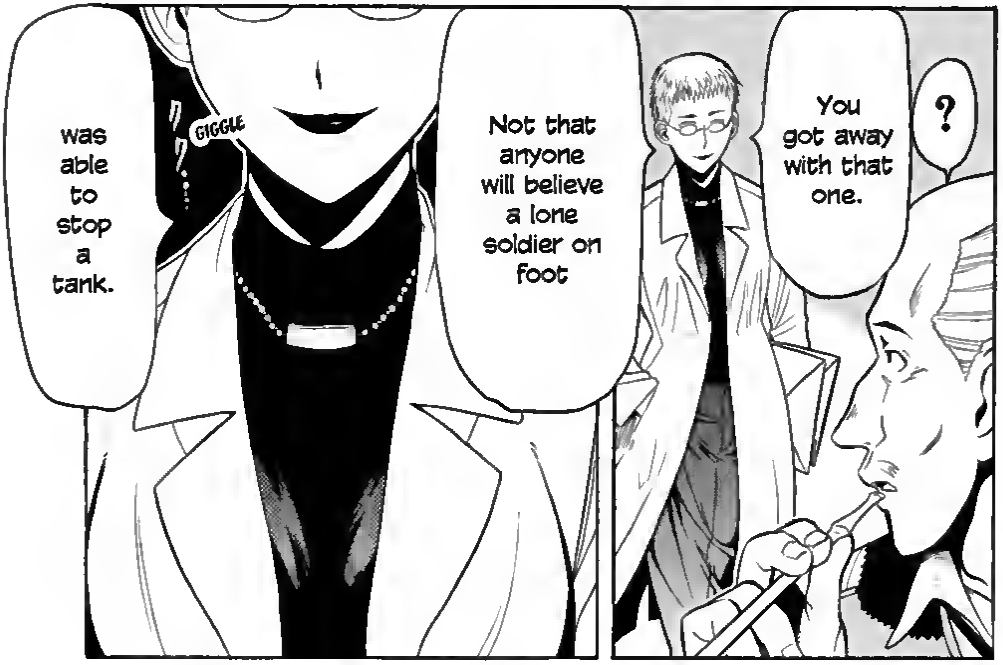


. . . . . .
I'm sorry for suspecting you.

?
?
?
This is all your fault!
I also need to apologize.
Heh, he's doing just fine.


The report regarding the armored vehicle damage is now finished.
YAMMER
YAMMER
YAMMER
YAMMER
YAMMER
GATCH-K

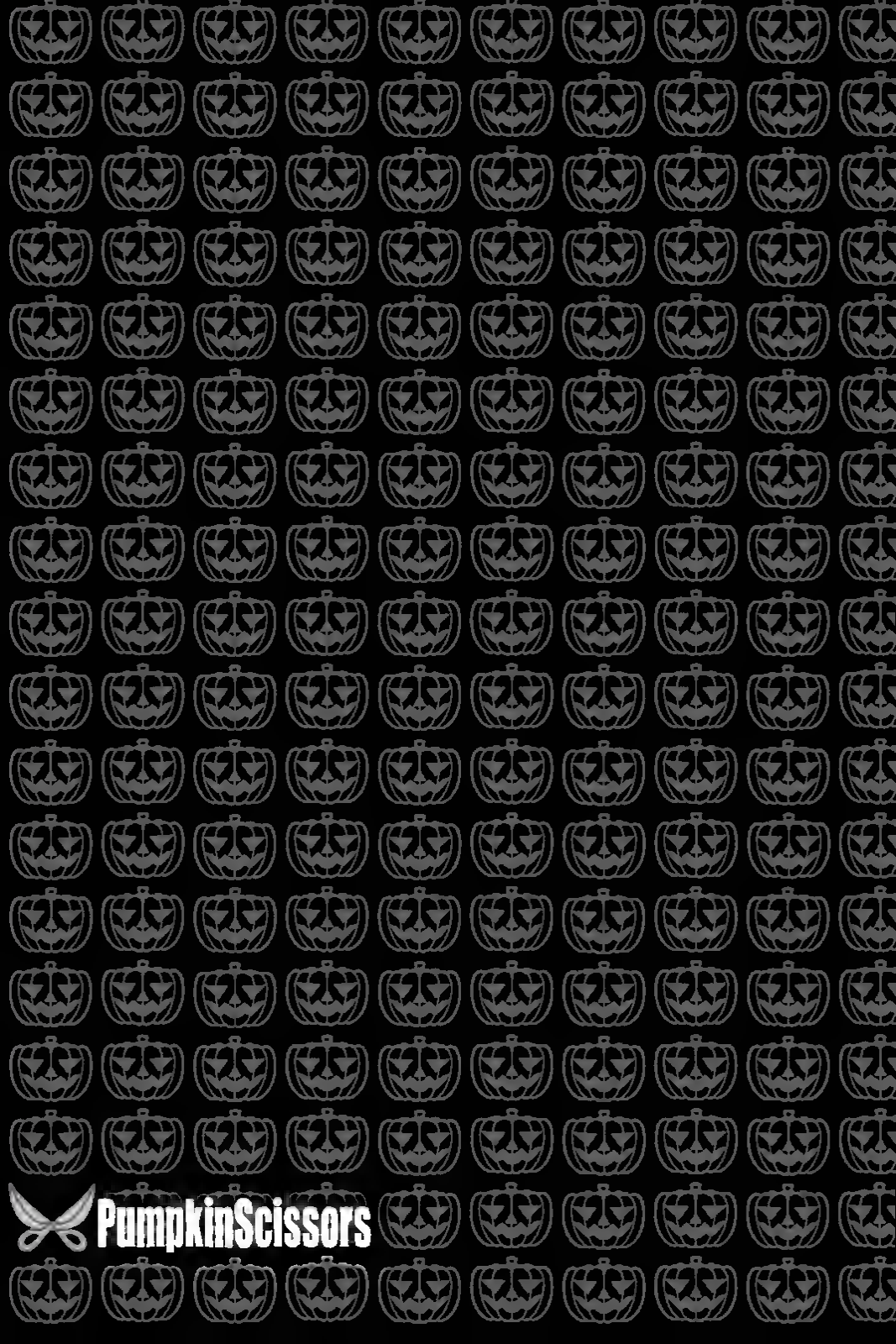

Captain Hunks.
YAWN

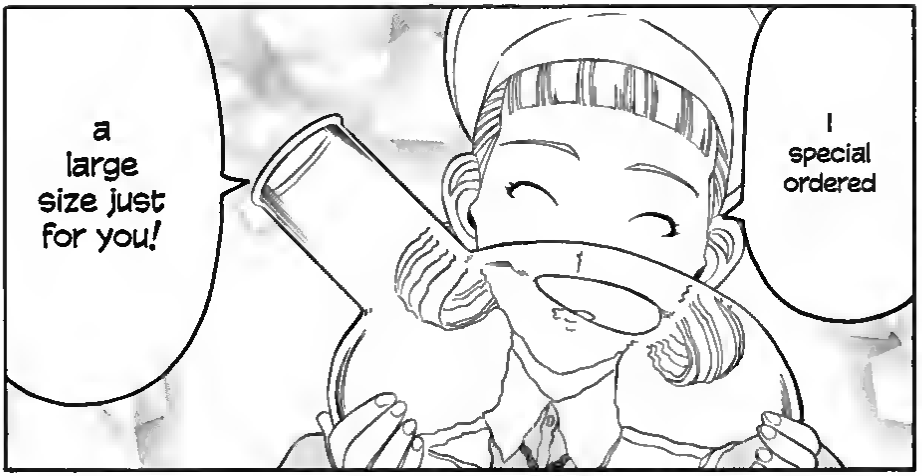

was able to stop a tank.
GIGGLE
Not that anyone will believe a lone soldier on foot
You got away with that one.
?

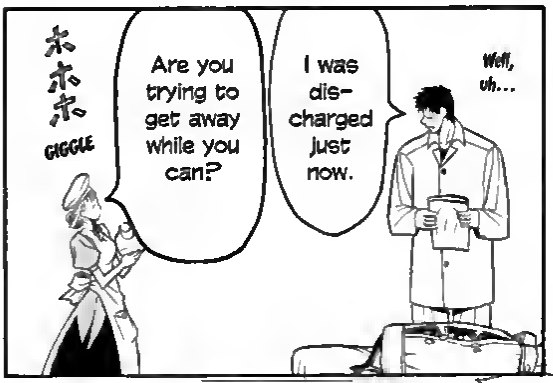
Who the hell are you?

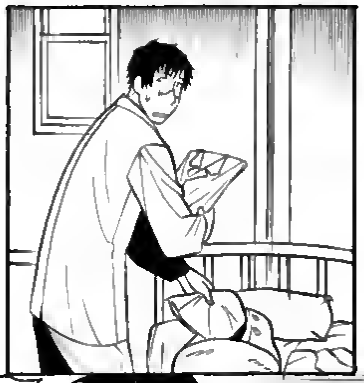
Nice to meet you. I'm Muze Caplan,
head of the Caplan Institute's Medical Research Department.

#4/END

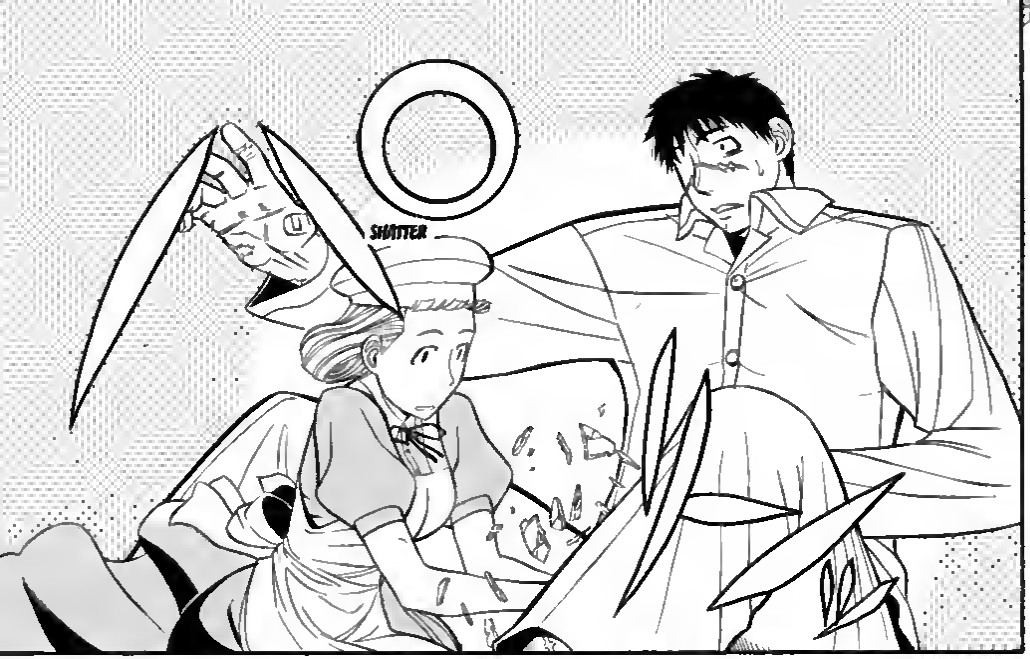

PumpkinScissors


I special ordered
a large size just for you!

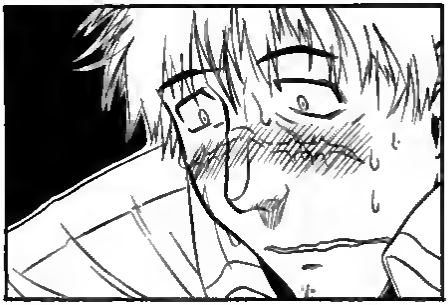

Well, uh...
I was discharged just now.
Are you trying to get away while you can?
ホホホ
GIGGLE



Modern medicine will not be defeated!
FLAIL
FLAIL
Uhm, this isn't necessary!
I won't tolerate disobedience!
CATCH!
CRACK
SHOVE


SHUTTER

and release....



MUTTER
MUTTER
He didn't have to get... excited.
I heard he was re-admitted.
Needed two stitches
The hospital director wants to see you!

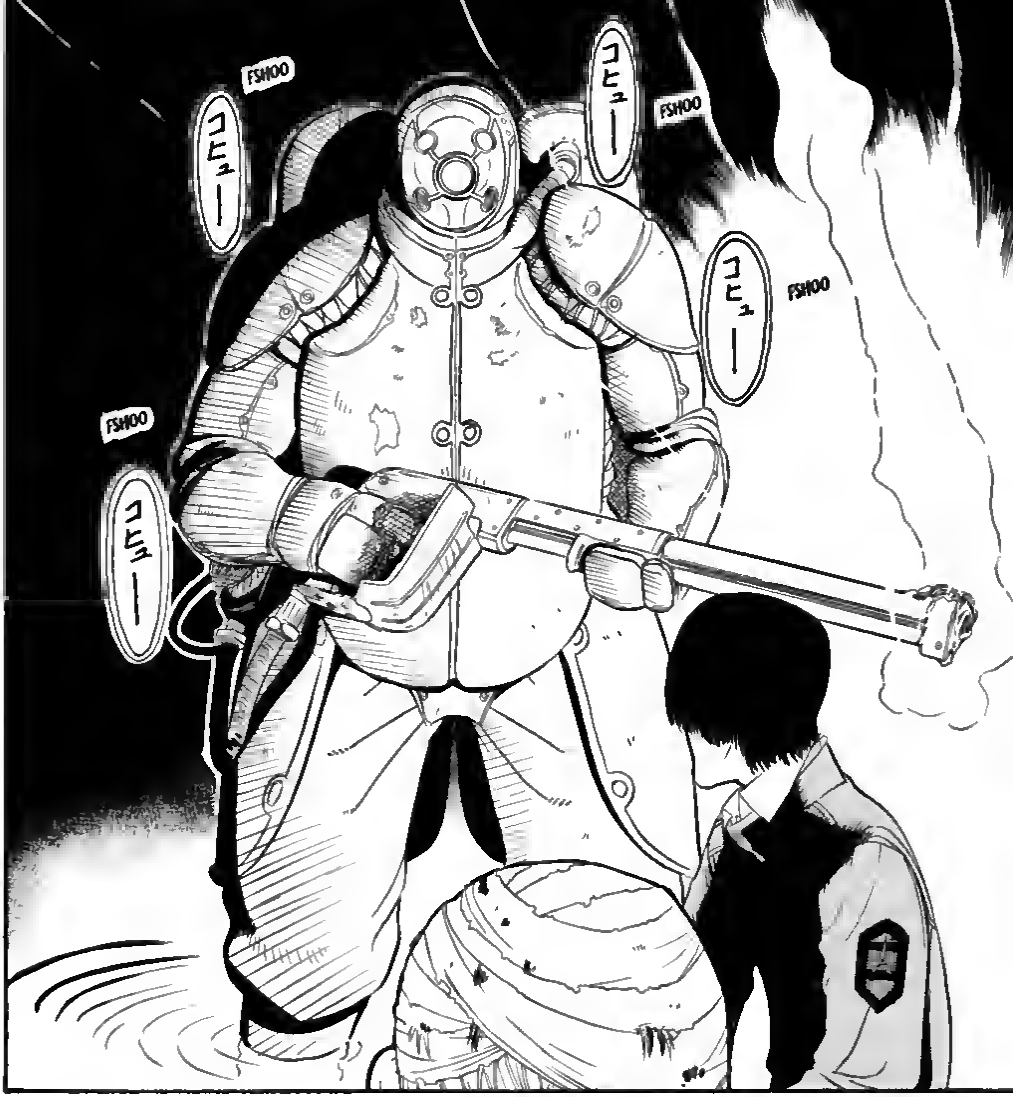
NEXT!

PumpkinScissors

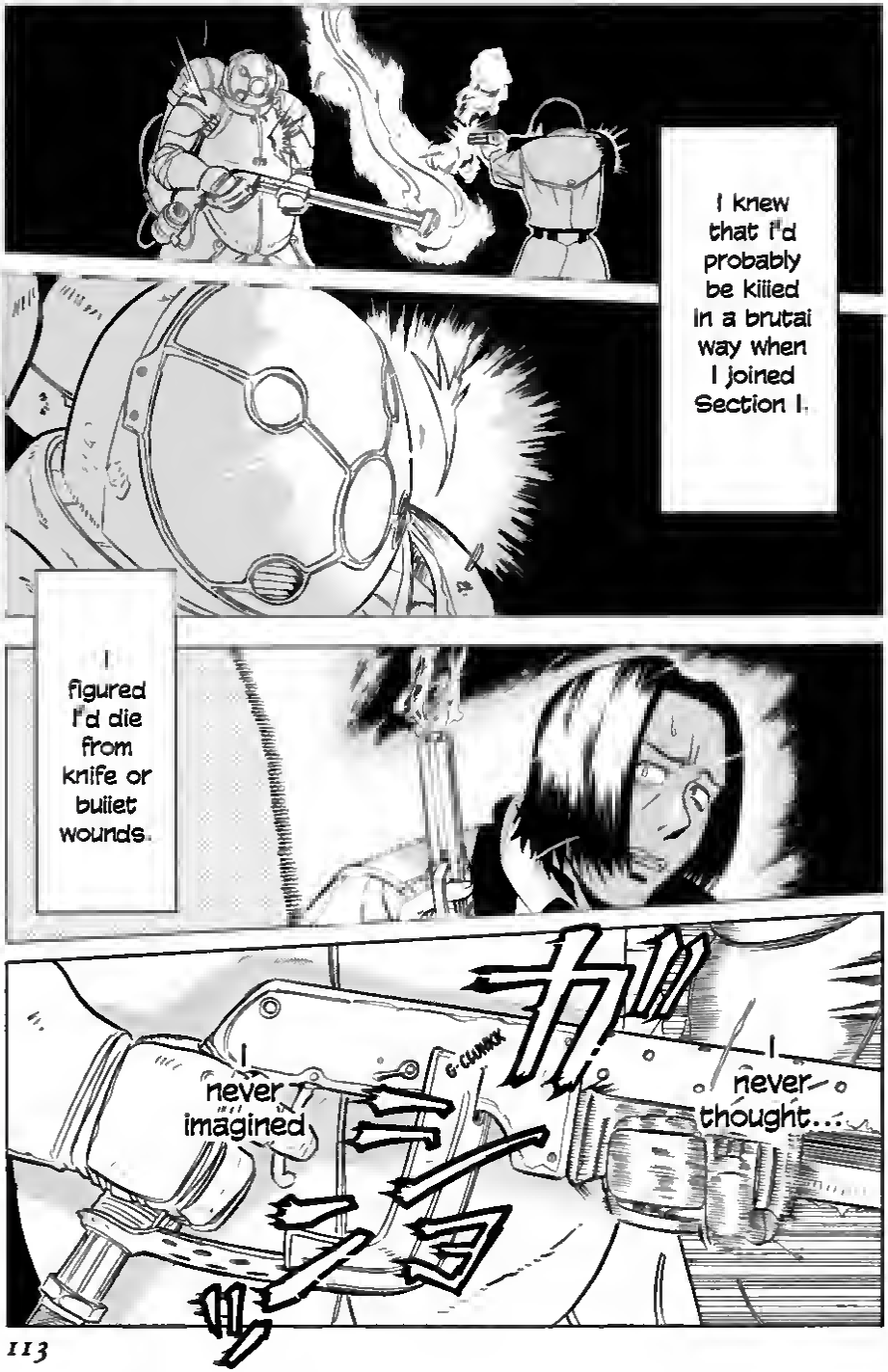
SCURRY
God-dammit! Dear God...
SPLASH
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT

Don't touch it! That'll make things worse!
SIZZLE
My hands! My hands...!!

Get a hold of yourself!
NOOOOO!
Christ!
SHAKE
SHAKE


FSHOO
コヒュー
FSHOO
コヒュー
FSHOO
コヒュー
FSHOO
コヒュー

psycho bastard!
You


I knew that I'd probably be killed in a brutal way when I joined Section 1.
I figured I'd die from knife or bullet wounds.
I never imagined
CLANK
I never thought...

I would die in flames...
BLAST
SIZZZZZZZZZZZZ
CRACKLE
SNAP

THU
DDD
Cold...
FSHOOO
CRACKLE
SPLASH
I'm cold!
Freez-ing!
I'm freez-ing!
WHOOOOSH
SPLASH

FSHOO
コヒュー
I'm cold, but
RRRRRRRR
オオオオオオ
SHIT
FSHOO
コヒュー
SIZZLE
チリチリチリ
I feel warm
when I set people on fire
inside.
オオオオオオ
PLASSSSS

I'm returning this to you.
SLIDE
Section II Records Inspection Authorization Form
I thought you wanted to learn more about the Invisible Nine?
You don't need it?
Doesn't feel good to suspect your subordinate?
HEH H
FLIP

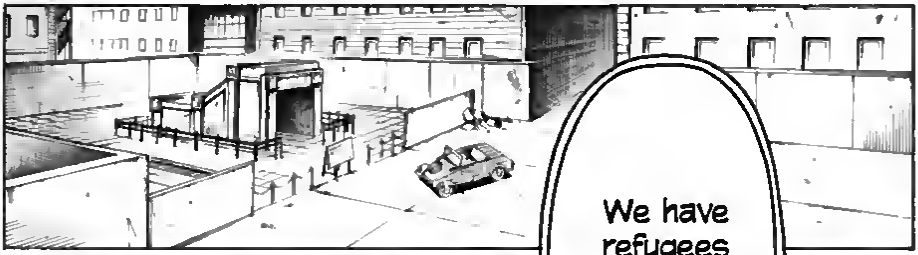
I need to get to know him
before I can suspect him of anything.
.....

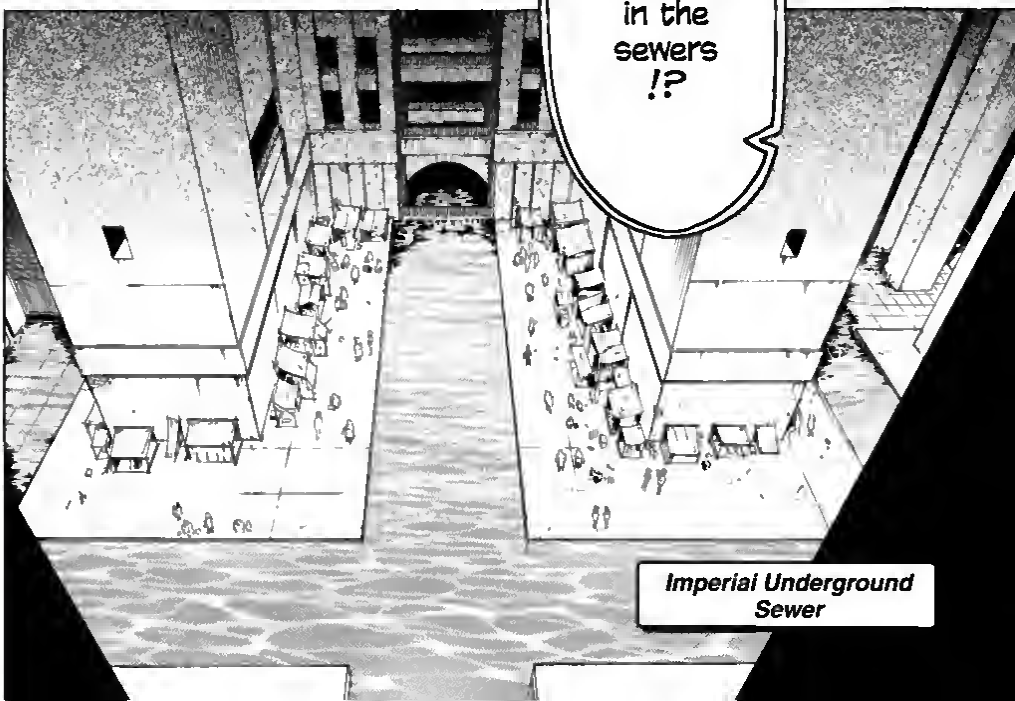
WOOF
ワフーン
WOOF
ワフーン
WOOF
ワフーン
WOOF
ワフーン
WOOF
ワフーン
WOOF
ワフーン
SHIVER
ル
SHIVER
ル
That dejected, flimsy bark...
Could it be-!!
たたん
STOMP

Wel-come!
YAAAY
Oh Merc!
PANT
PANT
WOOF!
PANT
PANT
Wait...
Whoa! What's this dog doing here?

Merc used to be a corporal before he was demoted.
Does Merc think he was demoted because of the new corporal?
What?
Merc, I can explain!
Don't call me Merc, you bitch!
while I was gone for a while.
Ha! It looks like you dragged in some other guy

What are they doing?
Merc's turned into a jerk!
わ
WAAAH
っ
PANT
PANT
PANT
Well, I'm a dog myself, but that's another story.
WAG
WAG



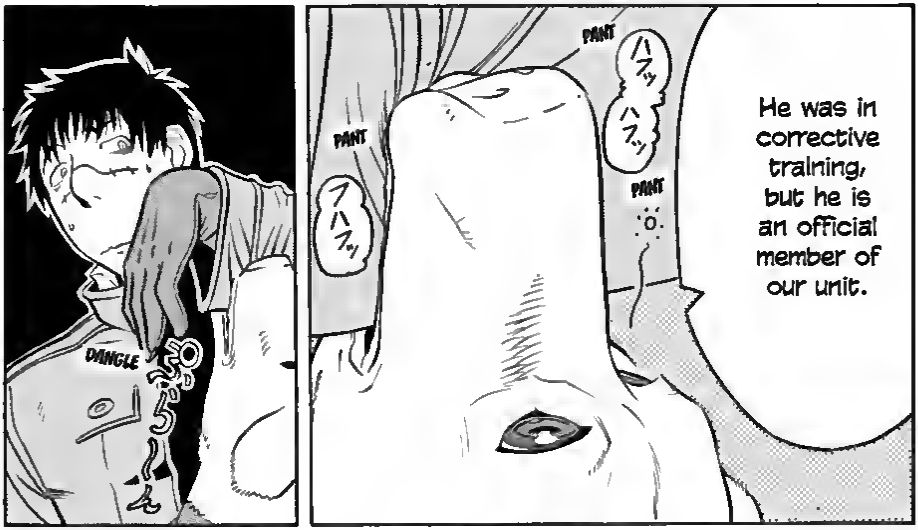

We have refugees in the sewers !?
Imperial Underground Sewer

People really are living down here!
This is just a small section!?
Right.
They came to the capital believing that they would find a job.

Lieu-tenant!

They had nowhere to go but under-ground.
They found no jobs or shelter.

He's been hanging on to me since we left the office.
The dog won't let go!
He's called Mercury.
PANT
PANT
PANT


He was in corrective training, but he is an official member of our unit.
PANT
ハフッ
ハフッ
PANT
PANT
ハフッ
DANGLE

Was he in corrective training for biting?
It obviously didn't stick.
I'll... get around to explaining more later.
Leave me alone!
DANGLE

Water-works employees have jurisdiction over the sewers.
SNEER
SNEER
Damn illegal immi-grants!
You owe us rent!
If you don't have cash, you can pay with your body.
HEH
HEH
HEH
That doesn't mean-
Looking good, baby!
DROOL

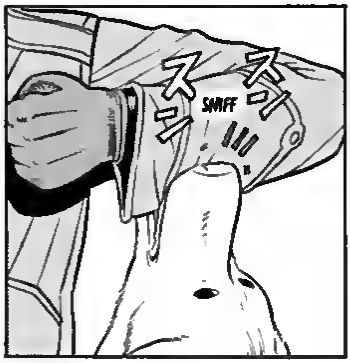
STOMP
What !!
Get lost !!
You're awfully cute.
Transfer of refugees from the sewer will commence immediately !
We're State Section III Pumpkin Scissors Unit!
MUMBLE
We don't have anywhere to go! You can't just kick us out!
Wait a minute !
Pumpkin? Are they the military?

I said "transfer."
You'll be asked to work and live there.
A state farm is being established.
OOOOH
お
お…
ワイ YAK
ワイ YAK
The government's finally doing something!
This means a real job!?

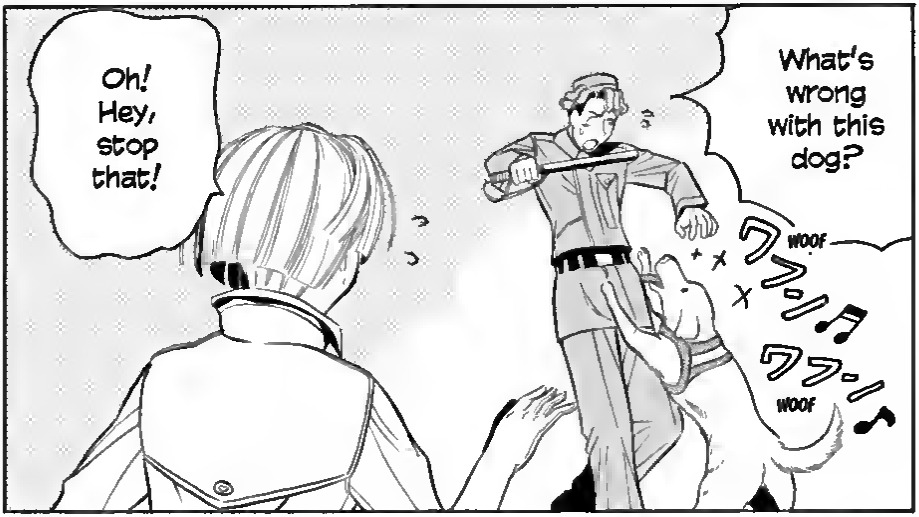
RAISE
すー
Hey, we didn't give you permission-
CHATTER
ワイワイ
CHATTER
YAMMER
ガヤガヤ
YAMMER
SNEER
ニィッ
HEH
HEH
HEH
Right?
They're not gonna be able to stay away from this place.
TUG
TUG
Let's go, Daddy! You'll be able to work!!
HA
HA
HA
Check them out.

Why don't you want to leave this hellhole?
Lieutenant! A group over there
is refusing to leave!
HEE HEE HEE

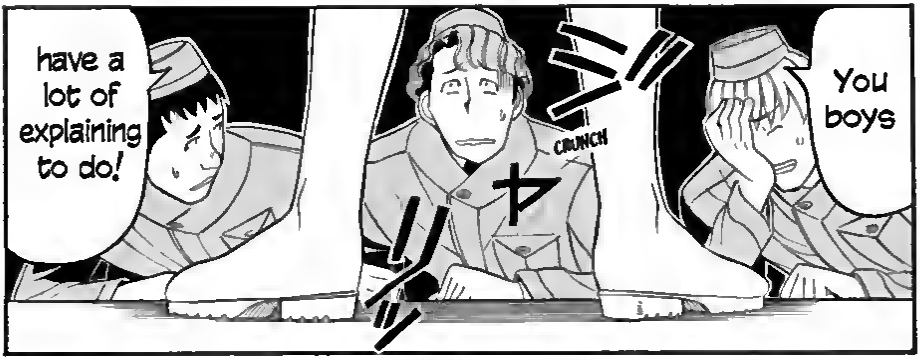
Now, hurry up and get lost.
HAHA
SMIRK
SMIRK
You soldiers aren't wanted here!


SNIFF

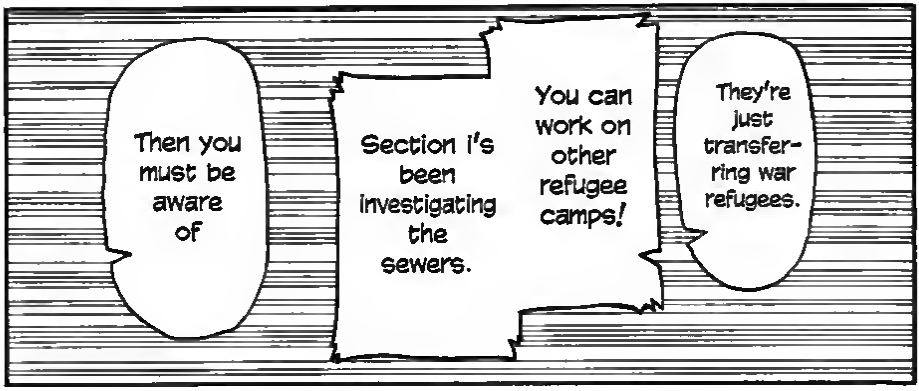
GRRR

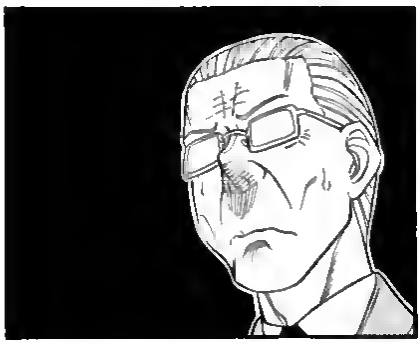

Oh! Hey, stop that!
What's wrong with this dog?
WOOF
WOOF

Ah...
Dammit! The goods are ruined!
PANT
PANT
CRAP!
PLUSHH
this isn't cold medicine.
I'm guessing
POUR
SHOVE

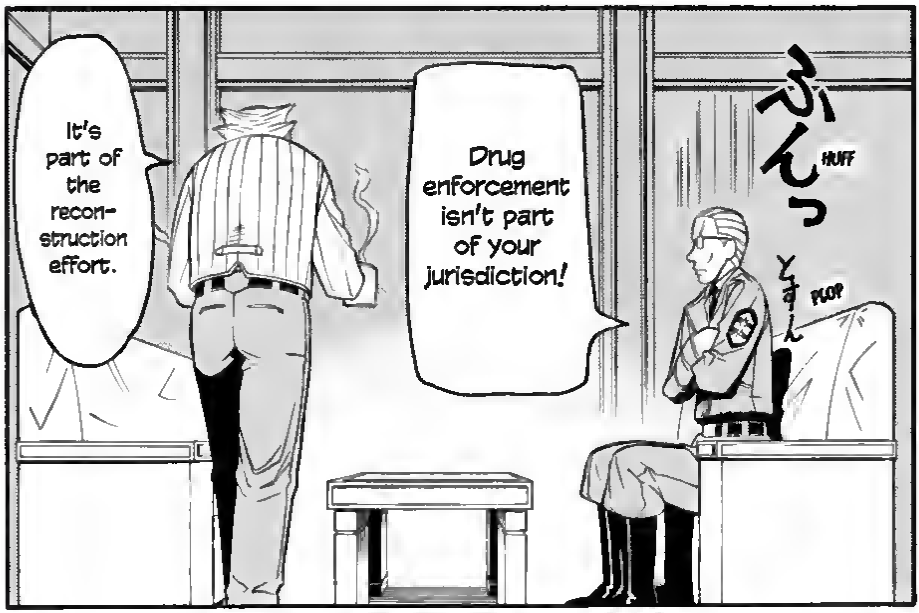

have a lot of explaining to do!
CRUNCH
You boys

As usual...
Damn, you're loud.
SLAM
Hunks, what the hell did you do?
Damn you!
Your underlings are screwin' with the Water-works!


Then you must be aware of
Section I's been investigating the sewers.
You can work on other refugee camps!
They're just transferring war refugees.



this little problem.


It's part of the reconstruction effort.
Drug enforcement isn't part of your jurisdiction!
ふんっ HUFF
どすん PLOP

The Waterworks use the sewer system to distribute the drugs.

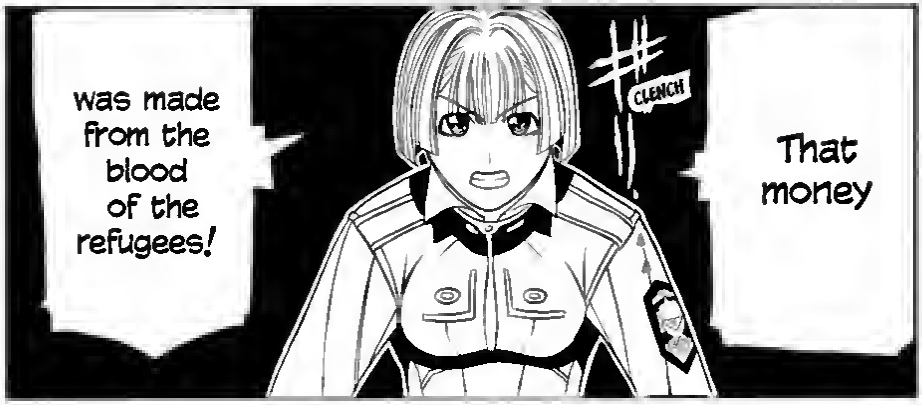
who wander into their property.
They exploit the hapless refugees

I'm sure addiction spread like wildfire.
These people had nothing more to lose.

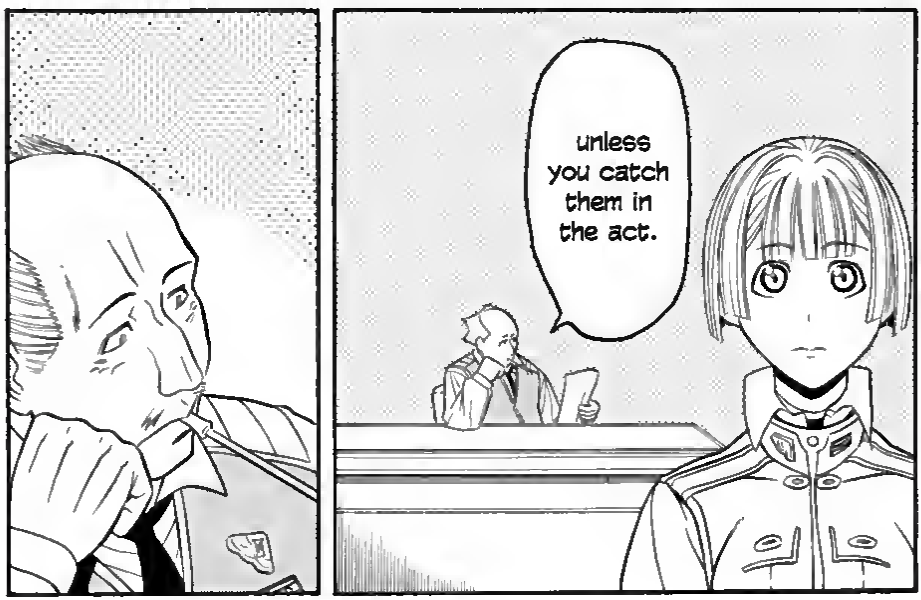
The addicts will do anything
to get their fix.
They'll do anything it takes...
Drugs hamper the recon-struction effort.
GRIP
Section III will stomp this out!

What about the employees under arrest?
キリ吐け
Start talking, damnit!
They're being questioned as we speak.
RISE
Just so you know...
Myon Water-works
is a generous annual benefactor of the military.

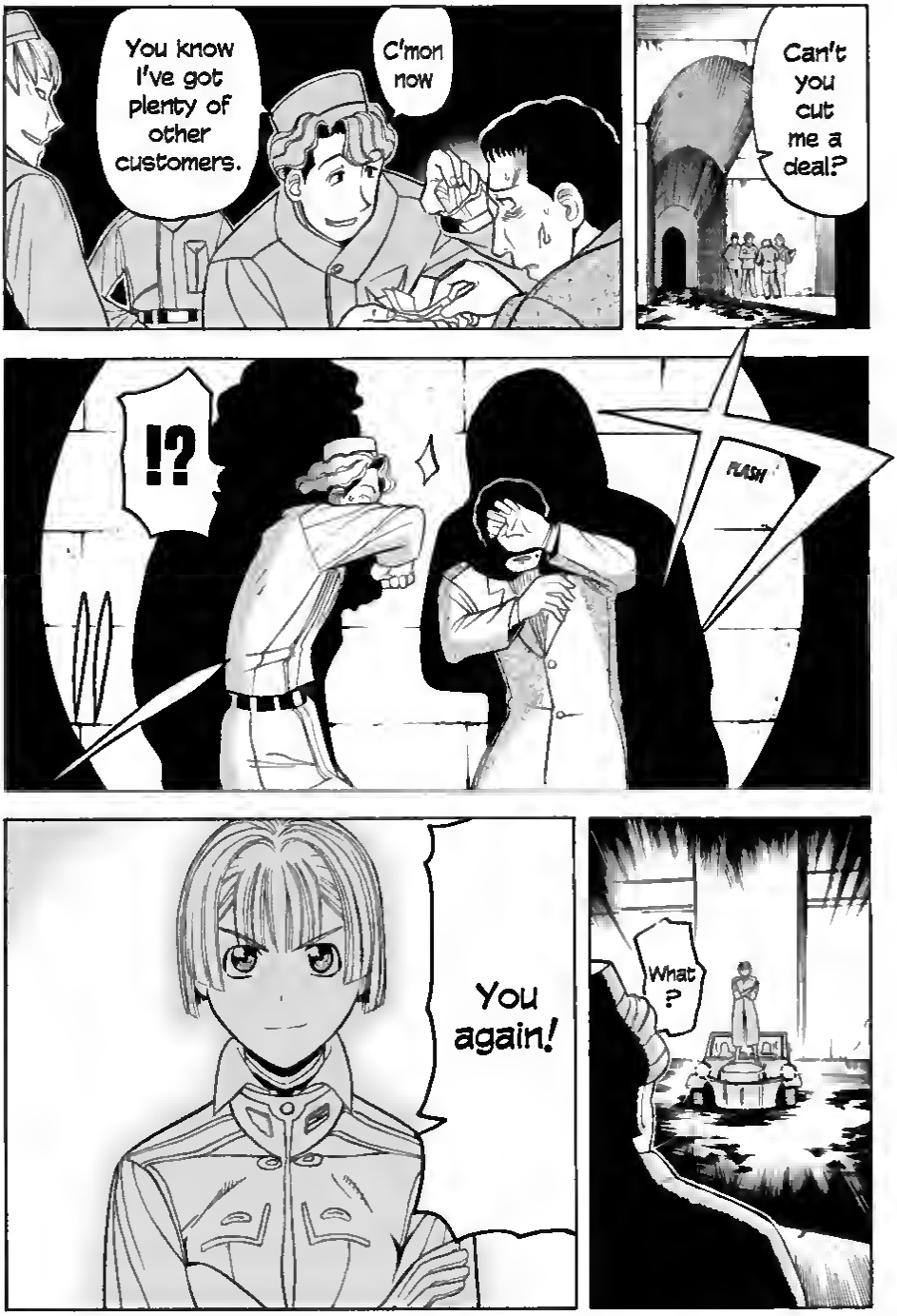
It appears my employees have caused some trouble.
They're an important customer.
the Waterworks director.
I'm Albert Myon,
The director paid bail.
Why did you let them go!?
SLAM


That money
CLENCH
was made from the blood of the refugees!

You're going to barge into the Waterworks office?
TURN
Section III doesn't have the authority to investigate or arrest criminals


unless you catch them in the act.

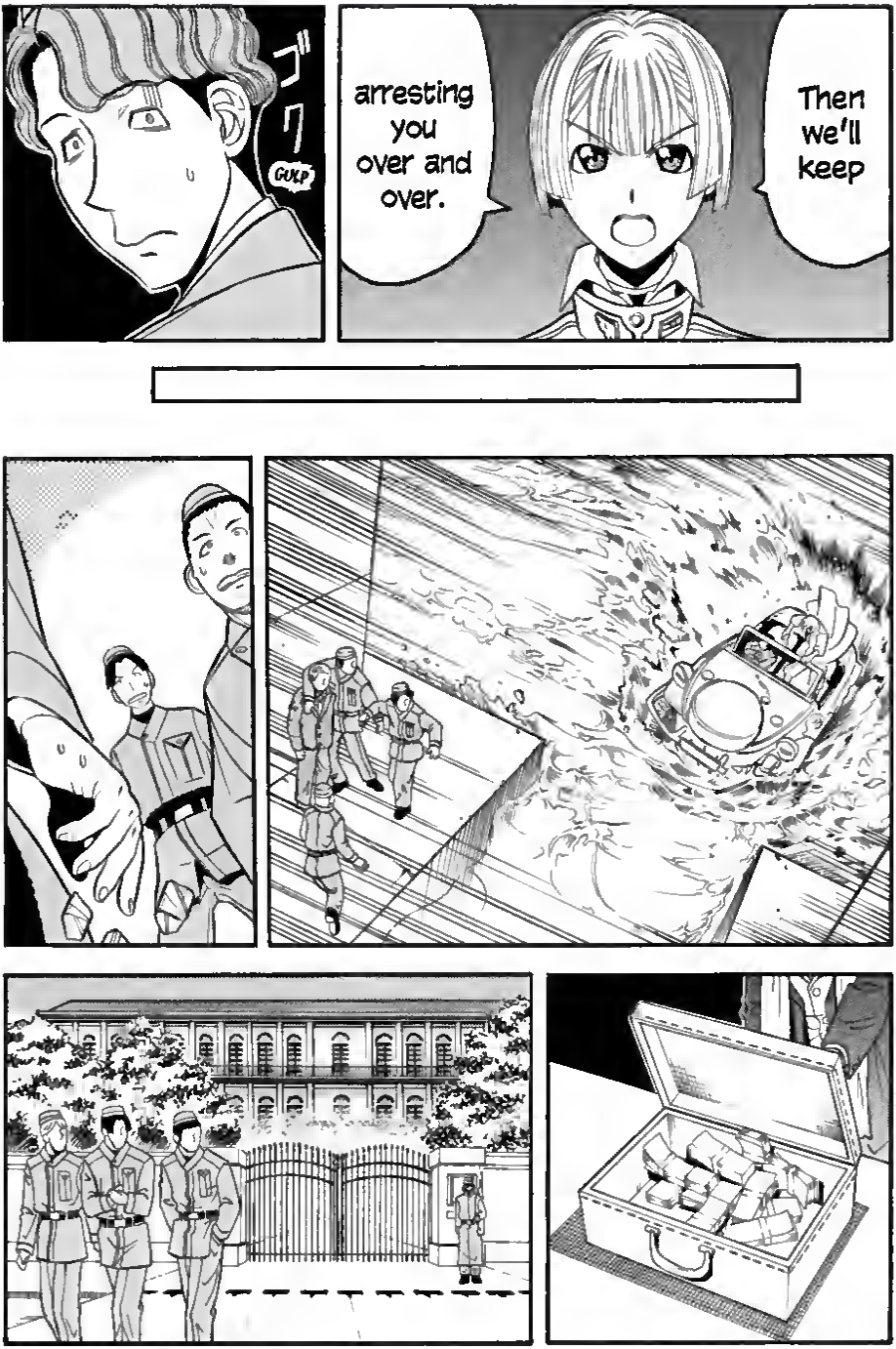
Corporal, I don't think I've ever explained the history
of Pumpkin Scissors to you.
KTZ
KTZ
KTZ
Good. The name-
I don't think so.
VROOOOM
SKREECH
Thanks for waiting!
We're done with maintenance for No. 2.


You know I've got plenty of other customers.
C'mon now
Can't you cut me a deal?
!?
FLASH
You again!
What?

Hey wait, are they dealing drugs?
Errr... We are here to transfer the refugees to a state farm...
SCRATCH
!?

What !?
Arrest them !
Right!

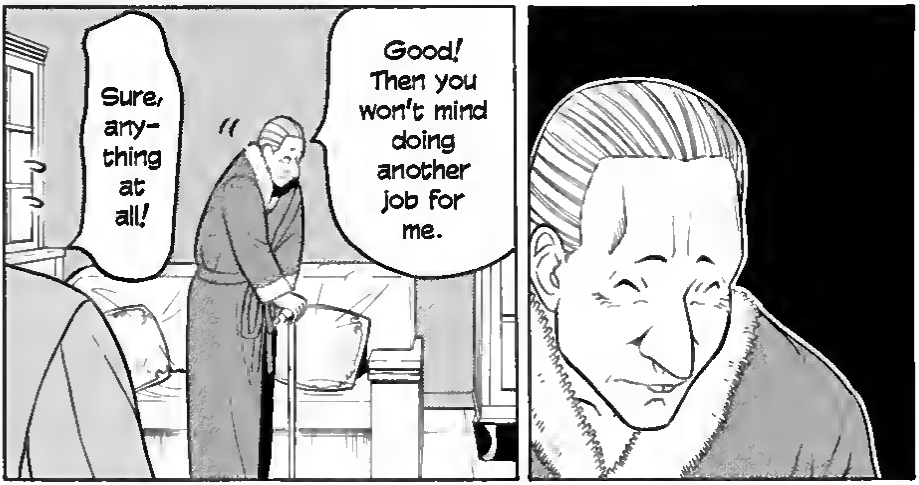
We'll be bailed out in no time!

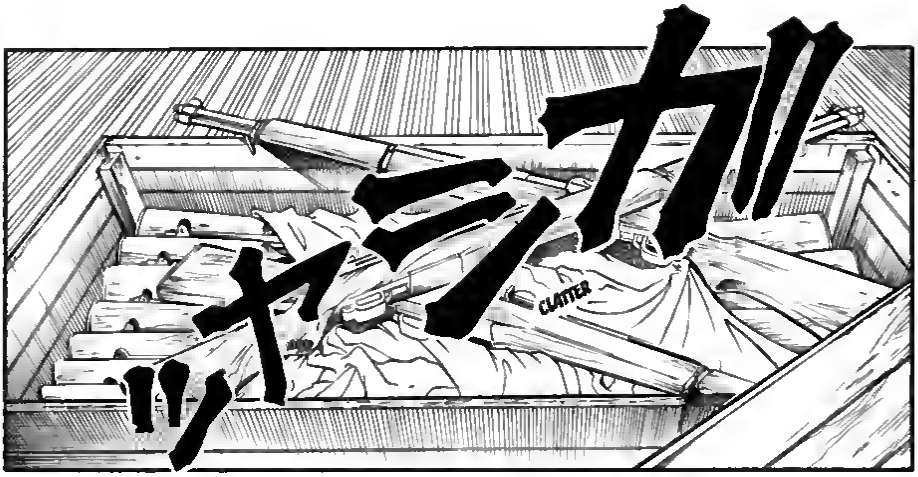

ゴク
GULP
Then we'll keep
arresting you over and over.

I'm losing money bailing your asses out!
SMACK
SMACK
Our customers are dwindling!
Brainless morons!
If you harebrains dare to
you've bailed us out right away each time.
Director, um, we appreciate the fact that

We'll
the army's going to storm in and arrest me.
mention my name,

You're the only one who saves punks like us from the streets!
never rat you out, Director!


Sure, anything at all!
Good! Then you won't mind doing another job for me.

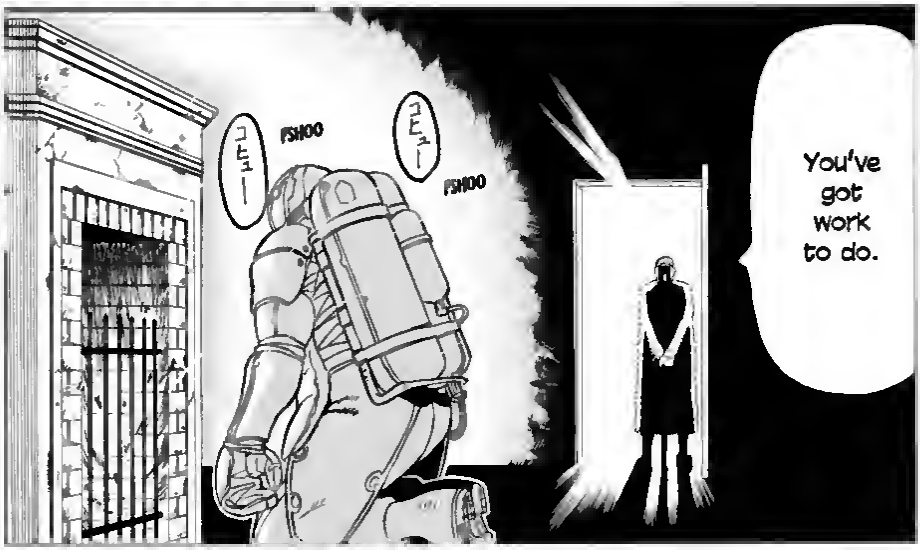

ガラガラ
CLATTER

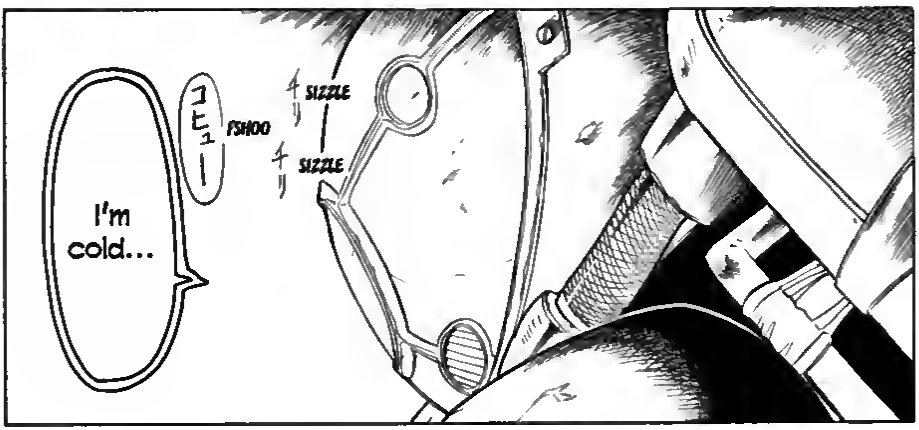
pesky flies... permanently!
THUD
I want you to get rid of those

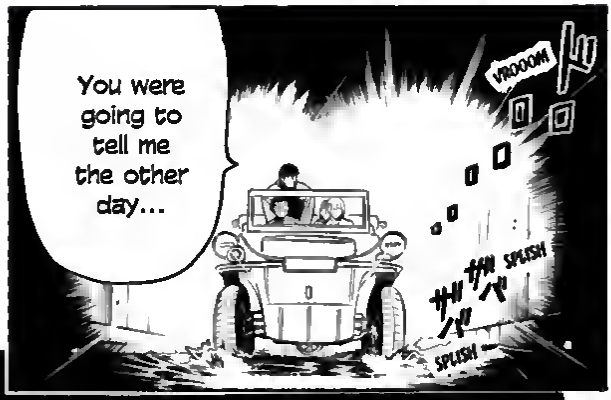
The drugs, the guns... Where are you getting them, Director?
These are nice... They're brand new!

Right...
Let's go!
MARCH
MARCH
They're a liability now.
In that case...
THUMP

GATCHK
Your name
is Hans, right?


FSHOO
FSHOO
You've got work to do.

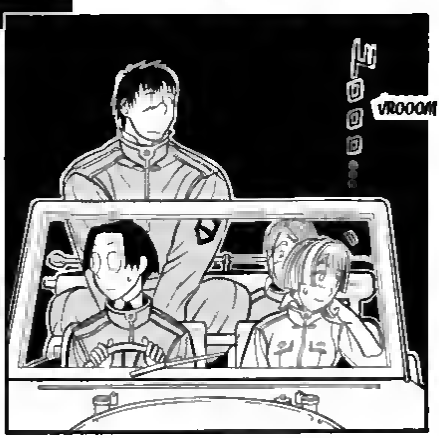

FSHOO
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
I'm cold...


You were going to tell me the other day...
VROOOM
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH

SPLASH

Oh? About Mercury?
He was um... a little too randy with the messenger dogs from Section 1.
Merc! Nooo!
I was talking about the unit's history.

RAISE
Why didn't you say so!?
I'm sorry!


VROOOM

GRAB
TWITCH
CRAK
PLOP
!.....
Everyone, out!
CLANK
Crap! I missed!

CLICK
CLICK
わら DASH
わら DASH
わら DASH
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
What the...
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

It's an ambush!
BAM
I got 'em!
LEAP

SPLA
THAK
THAK
THAK
SHAH
AAAH
!

Kill
Töten sie
Kill
Töten sie
GRIP
SWING
SPLASHH!
Dam-
mit!
TURN

big guy...
PHEW
Your weight comes in handy sometimes.
VROOOOM
They're getting away!
BAM
BAM
Druid!
I'm fine.
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
Hey, whoa! Corporal!
PANT
to Section III now!
PANT
I belong
Dammit!!
SCHWOOOO

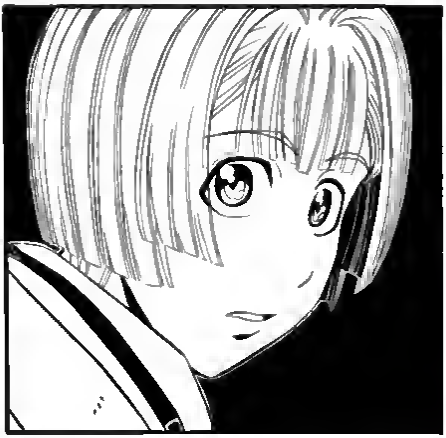
Lieu-tenant ?
VROOOM
.....
Reminds me of...
They weren't older models.
Their guns...
Now that you mention it...
Yes ma'am.
We need to get out of here.
Never mind.
I'm getting ahead of myself.

CLICK
SHWOO
ミュー
FLARE
CRACKLE
ガガガガガ
G-CLUNK

わっ
さ!!
TWITCH
Lieu-tenant!
Lieuten-ant! Are you all right?
Stop the vehicle!
SKREECH
I've felt this before.
This feeling...

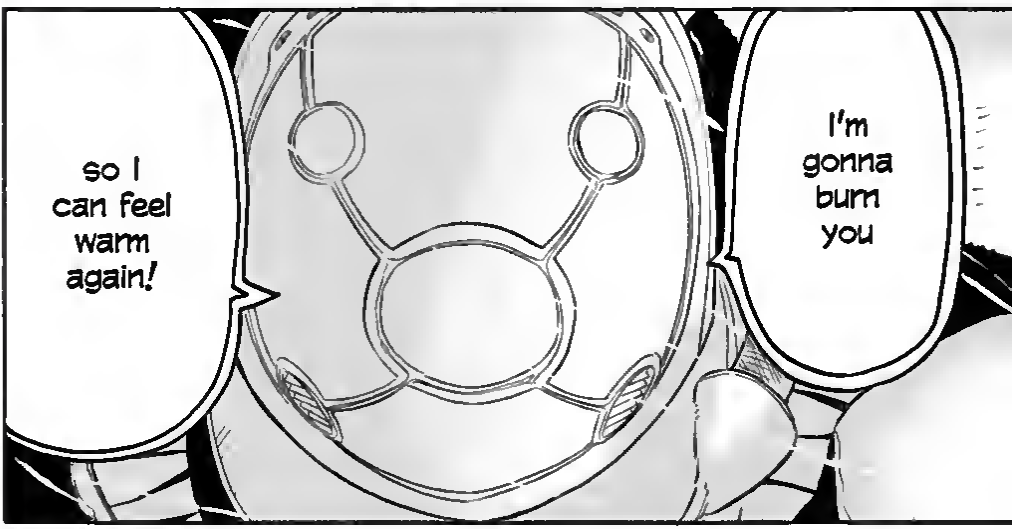
Are you okay, Lieutenant?
Yeah...

I felt this when I met him for the first time!

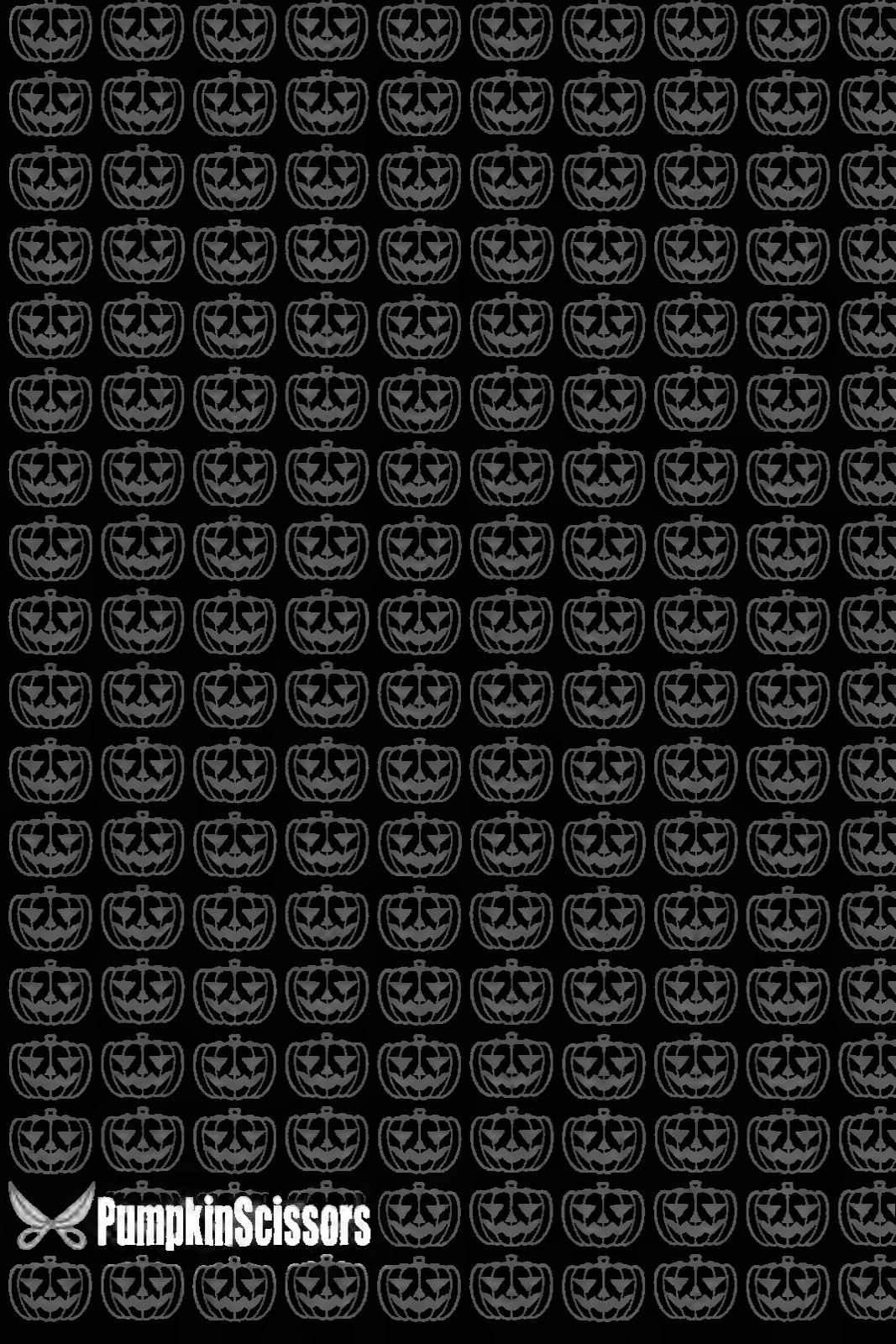


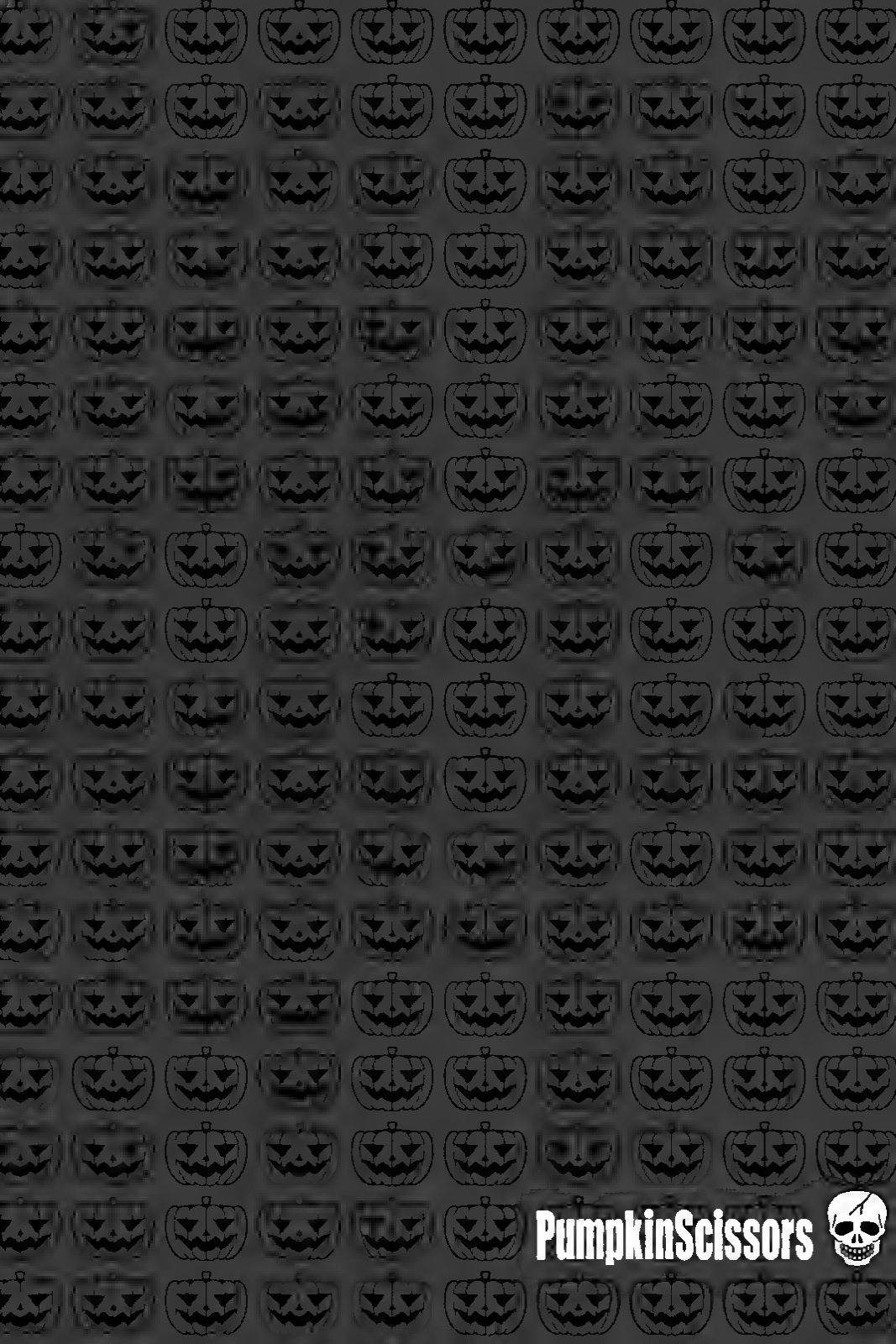
That weapon...
FSHOO
FSHOO
SPLASH
SPLASH
Reinforcements?

I'm so cold...
コヒュー
FSHOO
I'm cold...
コヒュー
FSHOO
I'm freez-ing...
コヒュー
FSHOO

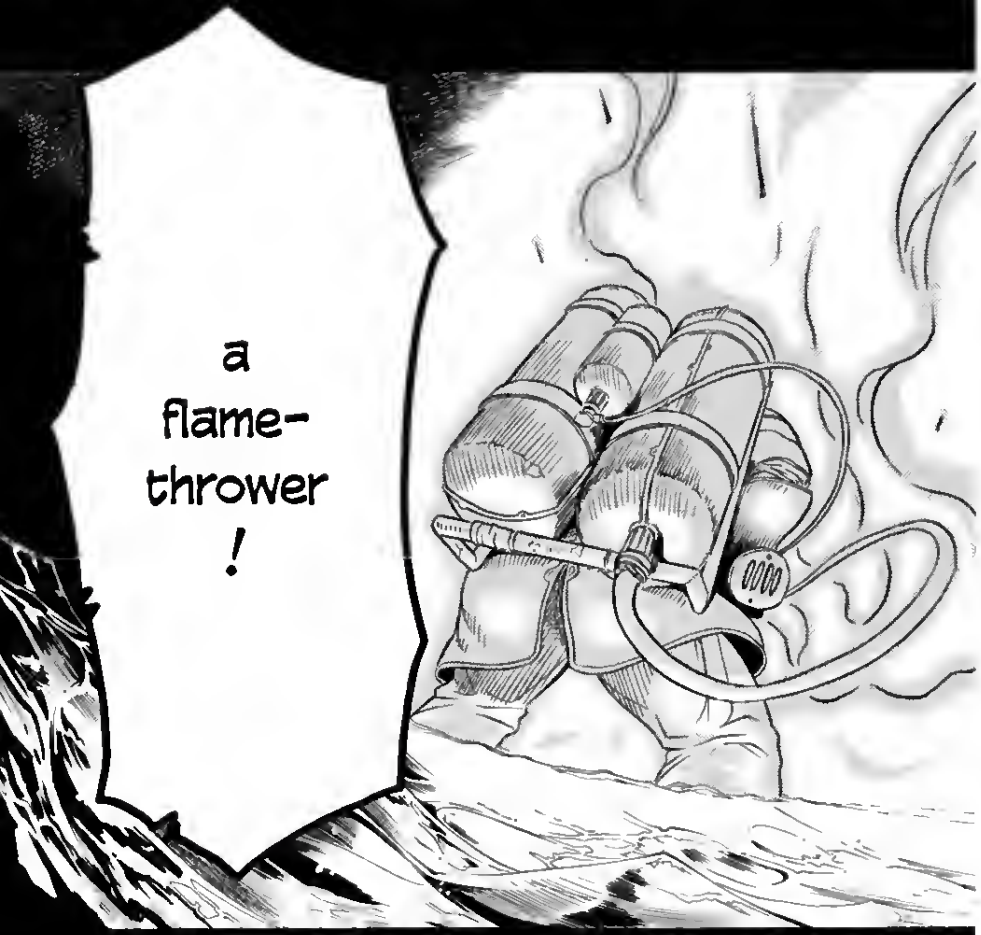

so I can feel warm again!
I'm gonna burn you

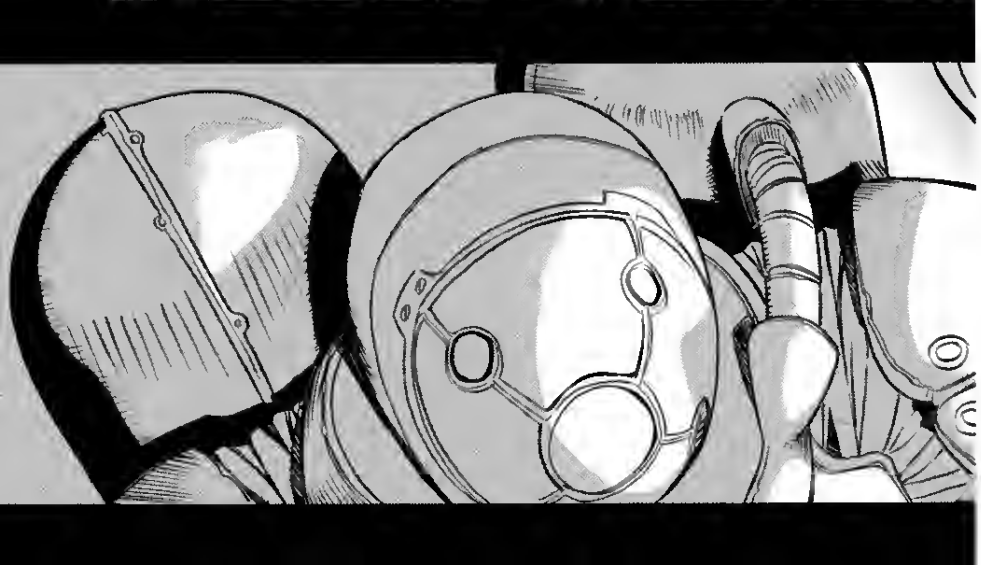
#5/END


PumpkinScissors


PumpkinScissors

I heard it was used once during the war.
Afterward, it was banned... or so I heard.
That's...
FLAM
AAARE


a
flame-
thrower
!

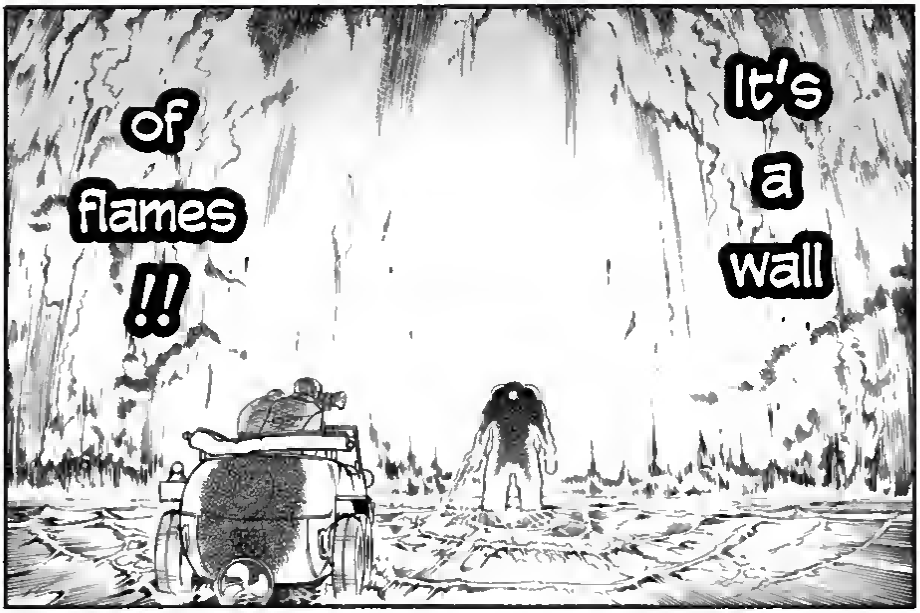


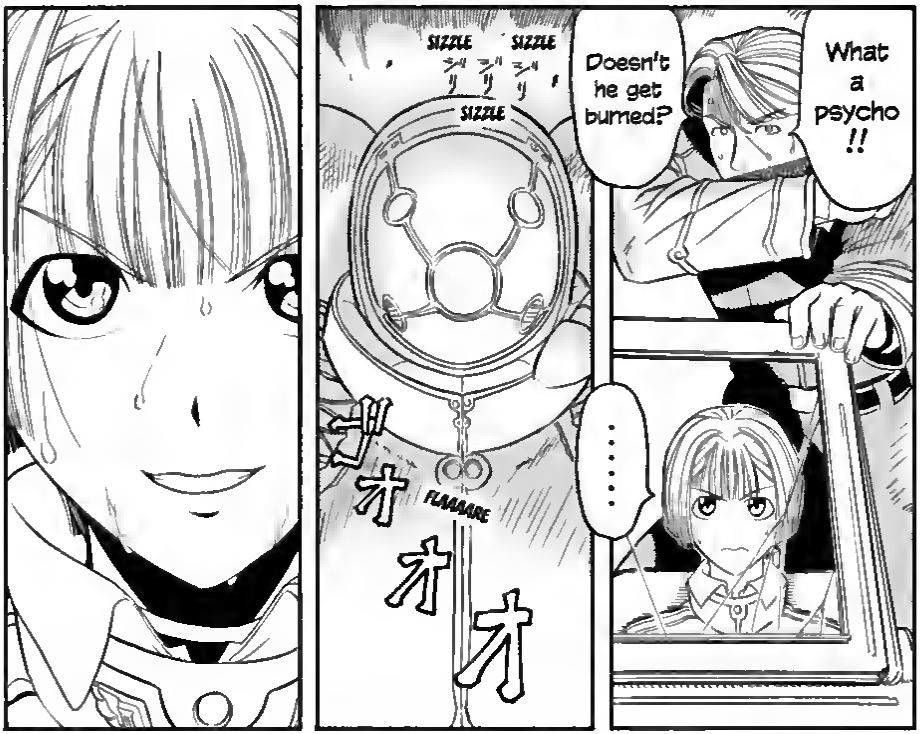
GLARE
A flame what?
In the way of advancing ground troops.
It was originally used to burn down brush and barricades
I think people realized
Why was it banned?
Sounds better than the drill machine.

that it could be used to
inhu-manely kill people.
I shouldn't have asked...
It's forbidden to use inhumane methods to kill people in the Empire.
Save your chat for later.
He's coming!

SWHOOOSH
SKREECH
SPLASSH
SKIDDDDD
Good! Let's keep moving!

ヒュボッ
BLAST
ス
SWING
FSHOO
コヒュー
……
コヒュー
FSHOO
SKREECH
キィッ
WHOMMM
!
Ow, I'm burning! Machs, back up!
He was spreading fuel on the surface of the water!
SNAP
パチッ
パチッ
CRACKLE
CRACK
CRACK
WHOOOOORSH!
オオオオオオオオ


It's a wall of flames !!


SIZZLE
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
Doesn't he get burned?
What a psycho !!
.....
FLAAAARE

Looks like I have to kill him to get through, eh?
Fine!
JYA-KICH
I won't back down from a challenge!
Stop! He hasn't said anything!
SPLASH
GAAAH
SPLASH
SPLASH
There they are!

Those flames are outta control!
RRRROOOAR
You cornered them for us?
The director can be a jerk sometimes.
He could have told us about you.
HA HA HA
SPLASH
SPLASH
Huh?
SIZZLE
HISS
HISS
HISS
HISS
HISS
HISS
HISS

……
BLOOORSH
!!?
CLIKKK
CLIKKK
CLIKKK
Kill him !
He's our enemy !

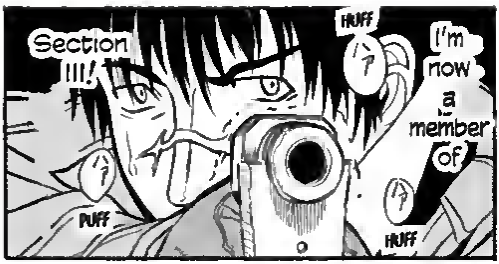
PWOFF
Damn!
Uh
PWOFF
PWOFF
BLASSTTT
SIZZLE
It's hot!
I've got fuel on me!
ROOOO
Hey, I can't smother the flames!
OAR
SPLISH
SPLISH
The gun went off by itself...
SIZZLE
BOOM

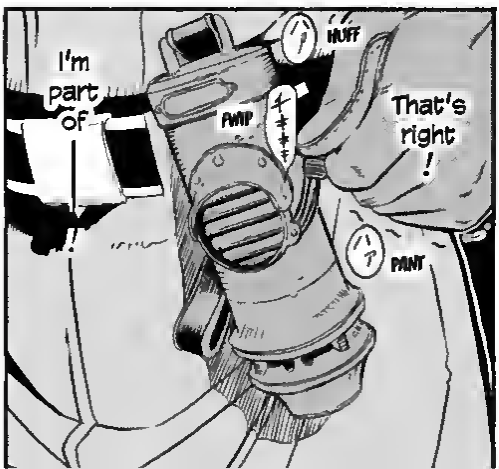
PTHK
PTHK
THUNK
THUNK
KLAHHHHHHHHHH
PWHOOOSH
BLASSST
SIZZLE
HISS
HISS
I can't... breathe...
FLARRE
STAGGER

FSHOO
コヒュー
FSHOO
コヒュー
FLAIL
バシャバシャ
FLAIL
バシャバシャ
FLAIL
SPLASH
バシャバシャ…
PLISH
バシャ…
…
ROOOOOOOAR
ゴオオオオオオオオオオオ
I'm feeling warmer...
SPLASH
バシャ
PLASH
FLAIL
バシャバシャ
FLAIL
SPLISH
バシャバシャ
SPLISH
UUUAH!
DASH
ダッ
ダッ
G...
バシャ
SPLASH
バシャ
SPLASH
バシャ
SPLASH

NOOOO!
GRAB
Orders... nobody leaves alive...
Kill 'em all...
Stop!
Who ordered you-
Orders?
SLAM
SLAM
SPLASH

You've done enough damage.
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLATTER


Section III!
HUFF
I'm now a member of
PUFF
HUFF

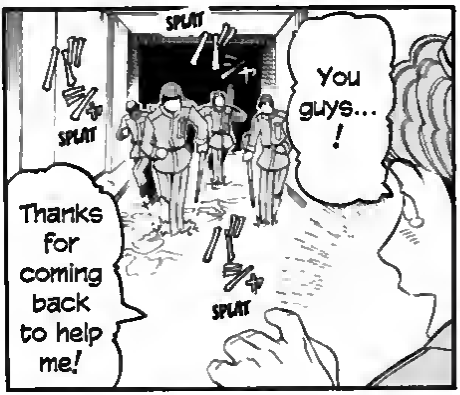

I'm part of
HUFF
PANP
That's right!
PANT

You can't let your guard down!
Don't hesitate, Corporal!
FLAP
FLAP
SPLASH

901ATT
That lantern's used by unit 901!
FSHOO
FSHOO
コヒュー
コヒュー
You... me... we're on the same side!
I'm 908!

SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
What the hell
are they talking about !?

Huh !?
We're not back for you!


SPLAT
SPLAT
SPLAT
You guys... !
Thanks for coming back to help me!

Hey! Over here !
SWOOOOSH
Uh ?

Orders...
Nobody leaves alive...

They've lowered the steel gates !
it was open earlier !

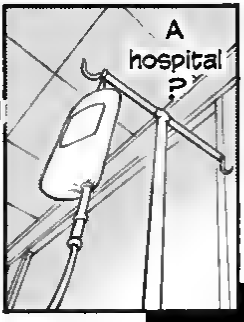
ゴゴゴゴ
WHOOOOOOOSH
ゴゴゴゴゴゴゴゴ
ボルルル

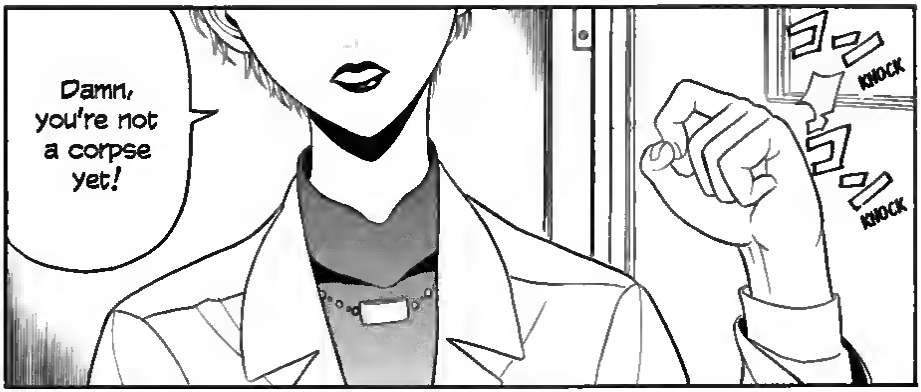
PANT
PANT
RRRRUMBLE
SPLASH
SPLASH
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
I'm now part of Section III...
I'm no longer part of 901.
I'm now part of-
WHOOOSH
!

yet
Not

FLUTTER
ピチ…

I survived…


A hospital?


Damn, you're not a corpse yet!
KNOCK
KNOCK

You were Caplan's assistant.
.....

KTZ
KTZ
KTZ
KTZ

you're my test subject.
Now, I've taken over,

I'll bet Webner's gonna be pissed!
ピチョン
DRIP
ピチョン
DRIP
ピチョン
DRIP
ピチョン
DRIP
KTZ
KTZ
KTZ

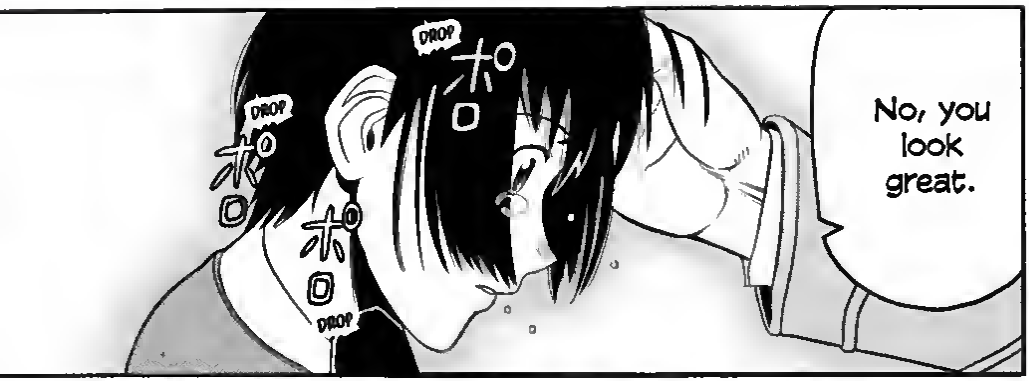
DRIP
ヒソヒソ
We should feel lucky that the refugees weren't hurt.
ヒソヒソ
DRIP

I know.
The people who are left
STAGGER
ヨロ…
We need to hurry up with the transfer.

Mariel!
We should transfer them before their addiction gets worse. Oreldo!?
WAVER
WAVER
PANT
PANT
are ignoring orders due to their addiction.
SPLASH

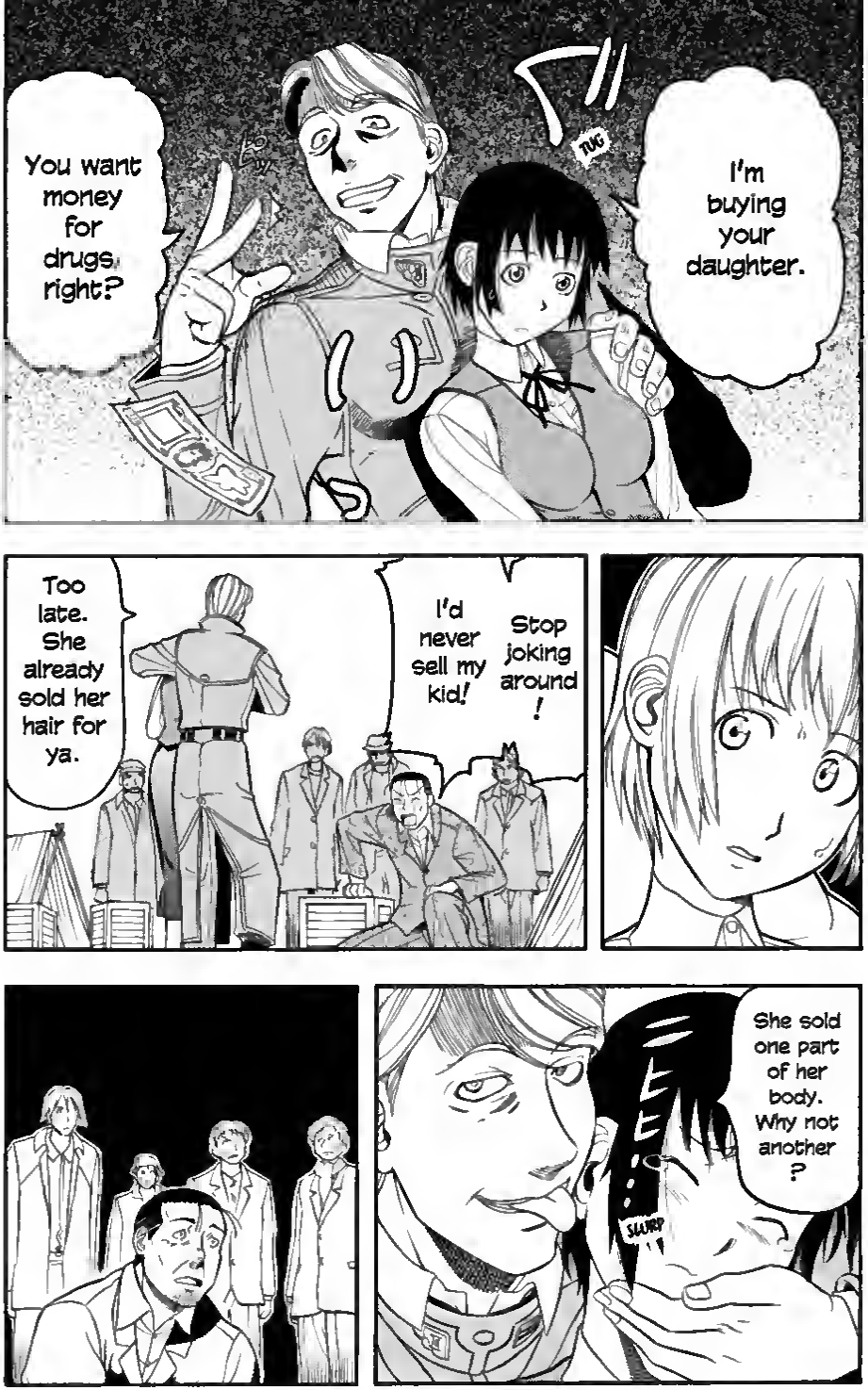
I asked for your name and then took off. I'm Warrant Officer Oreldo!
Oh...
The Waterwork thugs were messing with you.
I knew it! Do you remember me?
Yes, you were looking down my shirt.
So, you cut your hair?
Hm hm...
It's a cuter look on you!
I know you were trying to help.
I can be such a jerk...

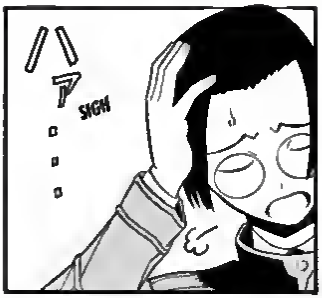
.....
Are you sure I don't look... funny?
You think so?
I didn't think I would get a compliment from... a guy.

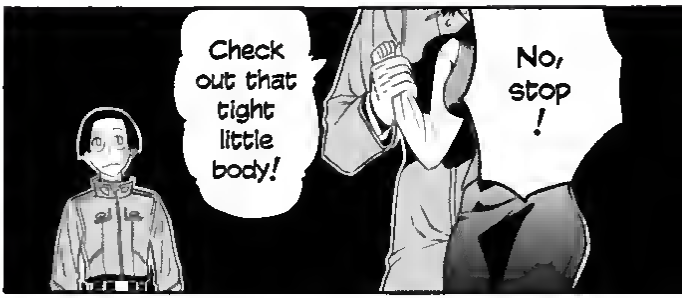

DROP
DROP
DROP
No, you look great.

She sold her hair to pay for her father's habit...

I'm so sorry!
Mariel...
SLOWLY
TOSS
POOF
WAVE
ヒラ
ヒラ
WAVE
What the hell are you talking about!!
The rest is on loan.
MUMBLE
That's my deposit.

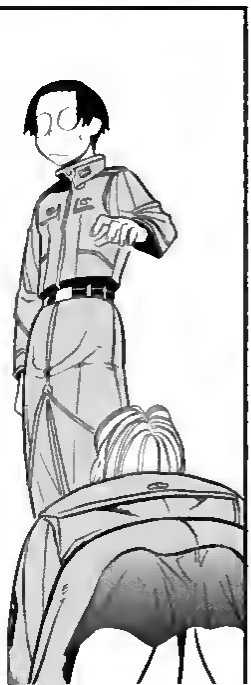

You want money for drugs, right?
I'm buying your daughter.
TUG
Too late. She already sold her hair for ya.
I'd never sell my kid!
Stop joking around!
She sold one part of her body. Why not another?
SLURP


SIGH


Check out that tight little body!
No, stop!

Let's give 'em a live show!
CACKLE
RIPP
STOOOOP!

TWITCH
TWITCH
She's hot.
I'll join ya.



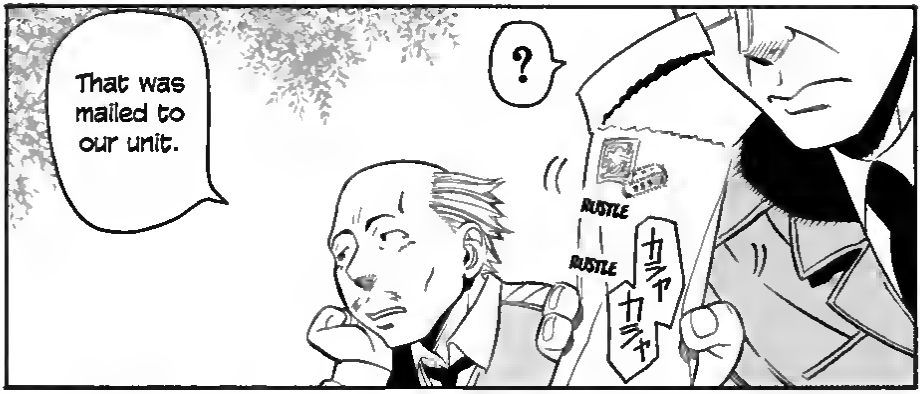
トサッ
TOSS

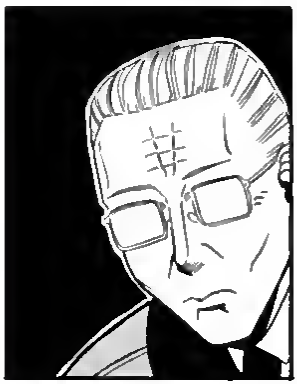
I give up.
ポリ…
SCRATCH
Can you pull it off?
You sure?
You bums!
You planning on watching the show for free?
You want money, but you refuse honest work.
You're all a bunch of losers!
You wanna watch, but you don't have money.
Enjoy watching your daughter earn some cash!
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
SOB

Don't touch her!
SMASH
MSH
Isn't it too late to act like her father?
Shut your hole!
I lost everything!
She's all I have!

we're worth-less?
You think
BASH
We can start anytime!
KICK
BASH
STOMP
We can still work!
SNAP
I can kick this habit!
You hear me, you punk!?
BAM
BASH
I'll do
any-thing for my daugh-ter!
BASH
STOMP
DRIP
ピチョン

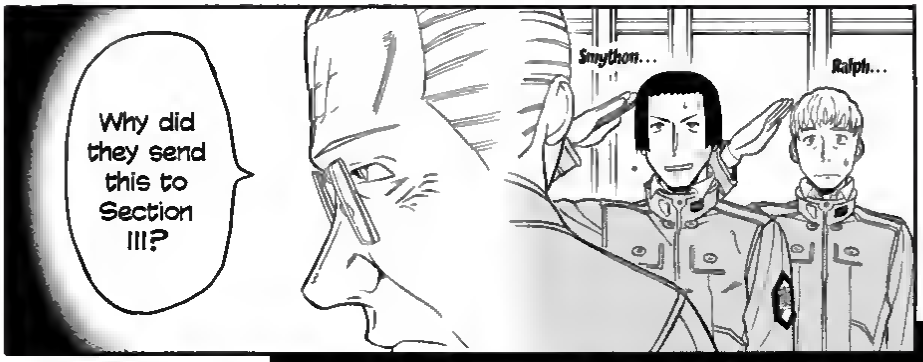
THRUST
What do you want to tell me?


That was mailed to our unit.
?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
カシャ
カシャ

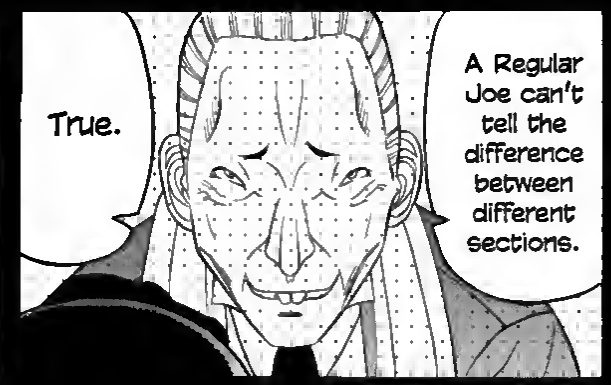


I believe it's a warning.
カシャ
CLIK

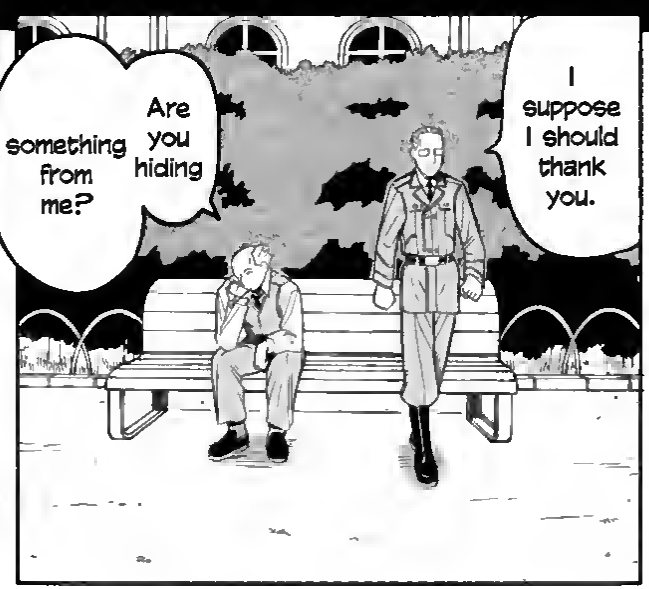
So, your covert operation was a failure.
SQUEEZE
ギュ…

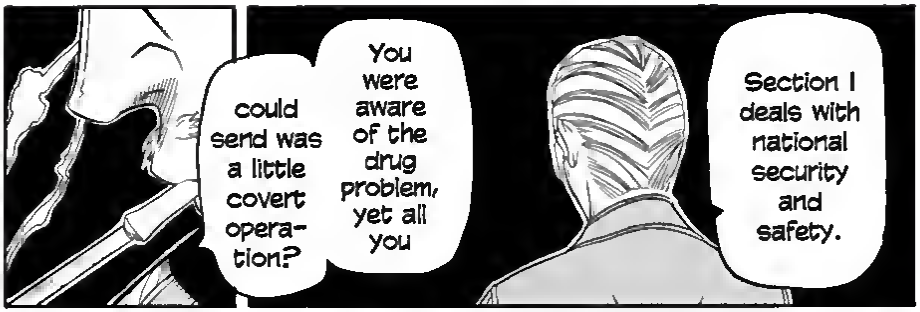

Why did they send this to Section III?
Smython...
Ralph...

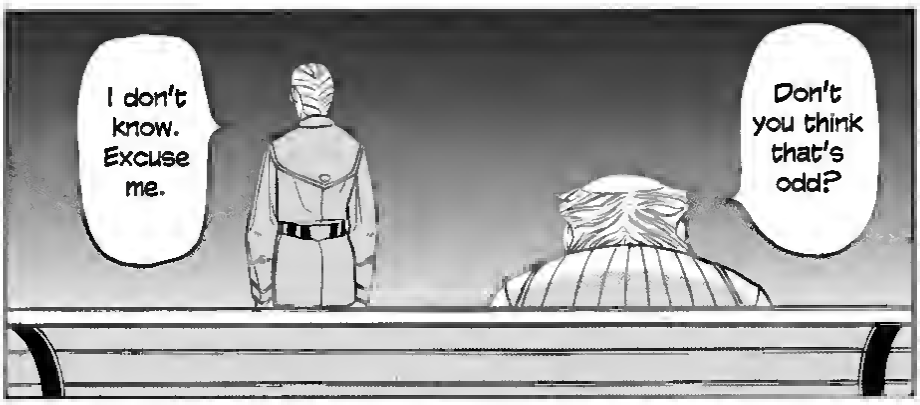
RISE

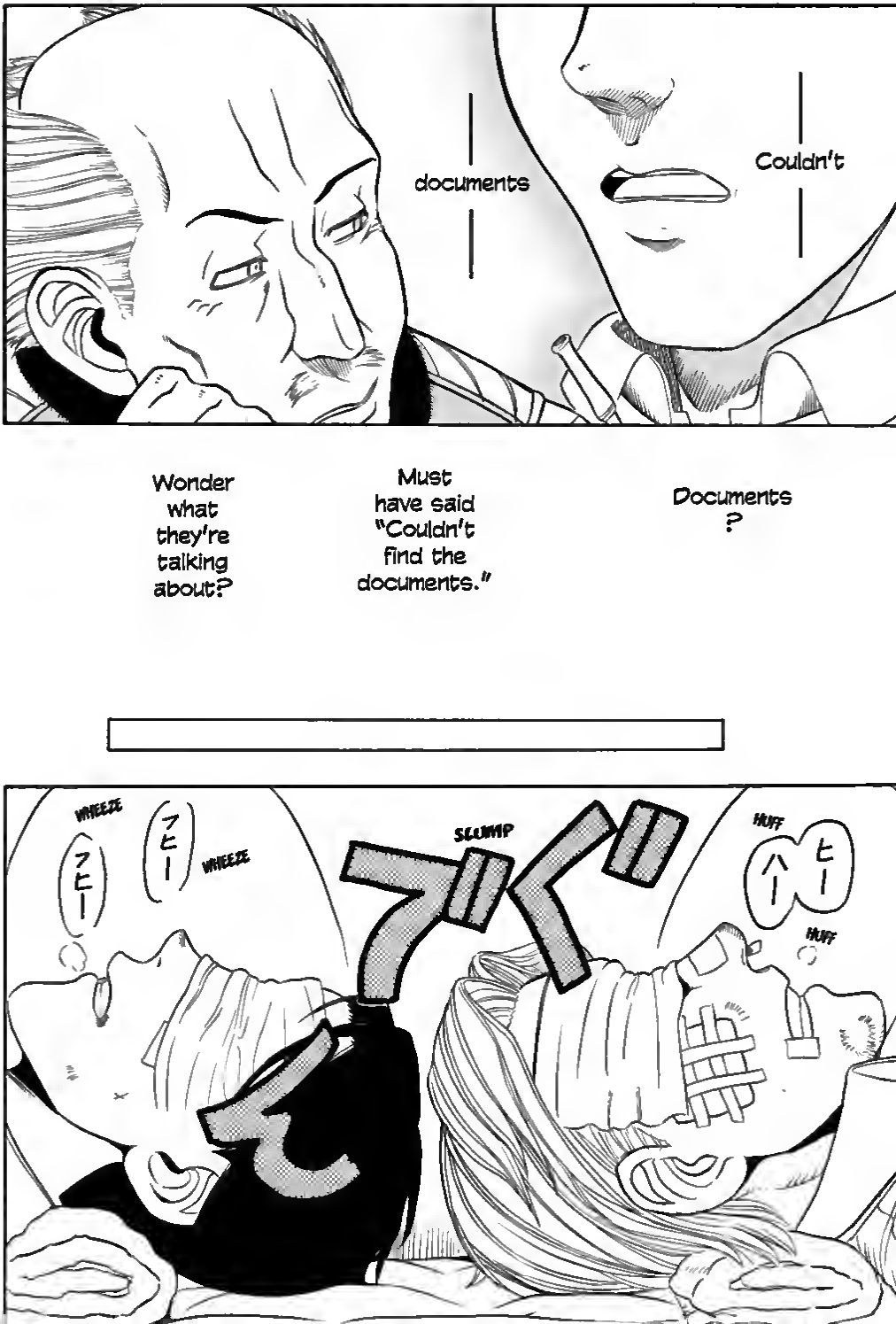

True.
A Regular Joe can't tell the difference between different sections.

FREEZE
ヒロタ

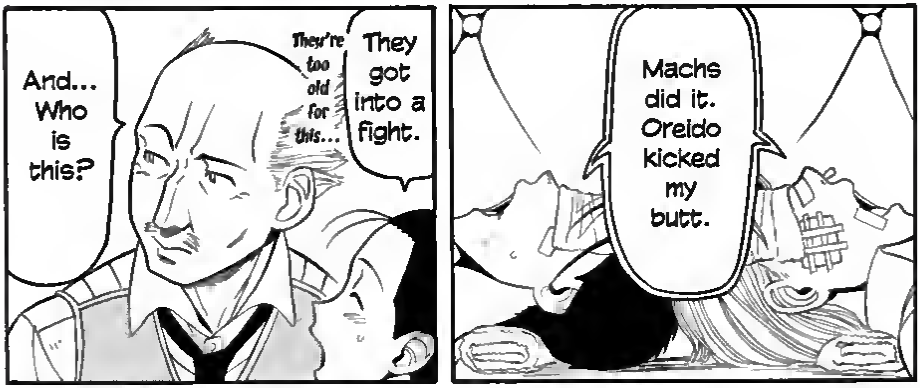

Are you hiding something from me?
I suppose I should thank you.


Section I deals with national security and safety.
You were aware of the drug problem, yet all you could send was a little covert operation?


Don't you think that's odd?
I don't know. Excuse me.

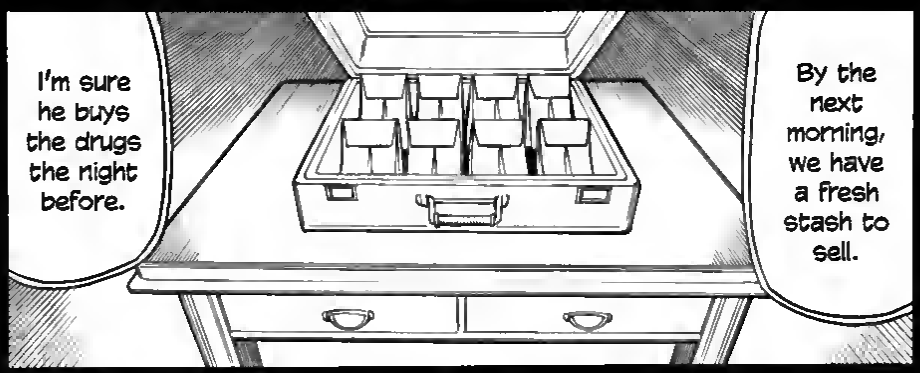

documents
Couldn't
Wonder what they're talking about?
Must have said "Couldn't find the documents."
Documents ?
WHEEZE
フヒー
フヒー
WHEEZE
SLUMP
フヒー
HUFF
ハー
ヒー
HUFF

Appar-
ently
...
You're
back!
What
happened
?


And...
Who
is
this?
They're
too
old
for
this...
They
got
into a
fight.
Machs
did it.
Oreido
kicked
my
butt.

regarding
the
drug
distribution.
He
wants
to
testify
His
name is
Metz.
Right
...

So... It's every two weeks.
According to schedule, it'll be tonight.
The director clears the office of all employees.
チッゴッ TOK
チッゴッ TIK


By the next morning, we have a fresh stash to sell.
I'm sure he buys the drugs the night before.

I doubt he'll be buying tonight with all that's been happening.
No, I think he will be.

It's not like the director cares
whether any of us live or die.
We were all street kids.
No job, no future.
We would steal food, hide, and eat it.
We lived like gutter rats.
One day, I met the director.
He took in a bunch of guys just like me.

wanted us because we were uneducated. We wouldn't notice if he stiffed us.
?
I realized the director
Then
WHIMPER
I'm still hiding like a rat.
SQUEEZE
I'm snitching on my buddies.
I suppose a punk will always be a punk.
Heh!
can only expect to live in shadows and squalor for the rest of my life.
SNIFF HICCUP
DROP
I suppose a rat like me
DROP

.....
Back when Section III was just Captain and me...
We weren't even a formal unit.
SECTION 3rd
CAPTAIN HUNKS
Those days were exasper-ating.

was caused by men who would exploit the people out of greed.
All the "damage" that we were supposed to address

They were always protected...
violence, money, and power.
They protected themselves through

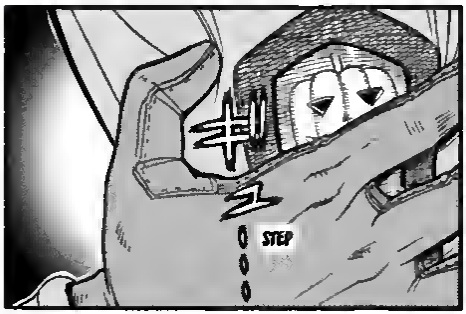
We needed to be the scissors.
They were like the thick skin of a pumpkin.

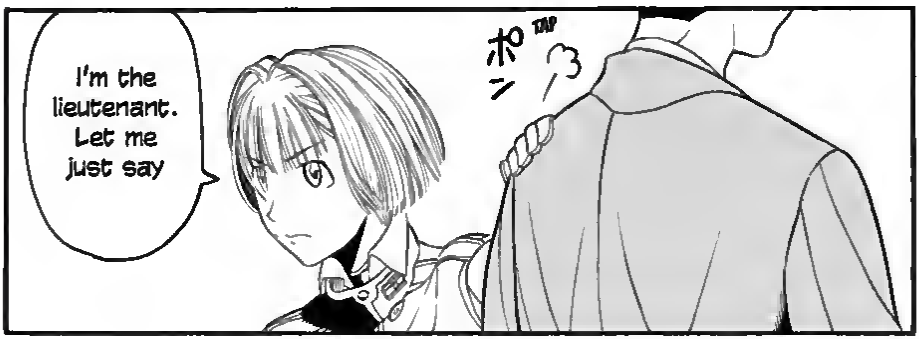
A robust, giant blade like a pumpkin scissor!
One uses scissors to carve a pumpkin for Halloween.

It's to cut away the thick skin.
That's where our name comes from.

That's right!
We announce ourselves.

We shout out the
name Pumpkin Scissors with pride!
SQUEEZE

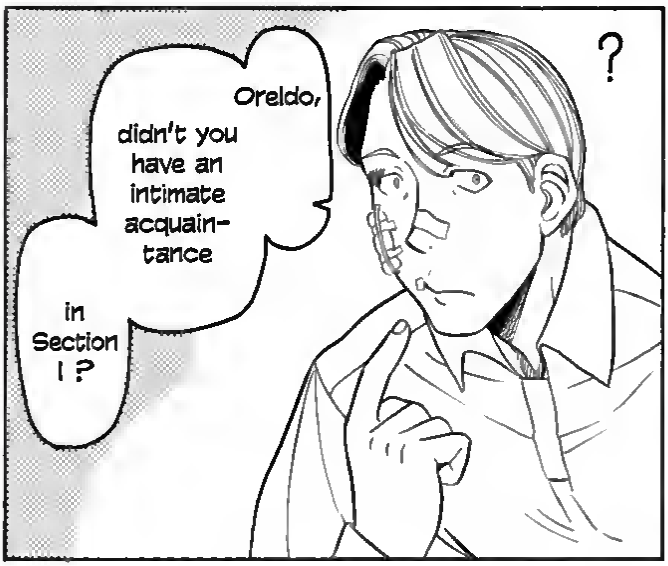

STEP


I'm the lieutenant. Let me just say
TAP

that you were the one
to peel off the thick skin of Albert Myon.
One cannot under-estimate
the teeth of a rat.
Aren't you going to arrest me?
I don't have time right now.
DASH
Turn yourself in to the police.
This woman's lost it.

I can't run away now...
I'll run away?
She doesn't think
Are you ok?

You took blows for me in the end.
Don't overdo it!
Ouch!

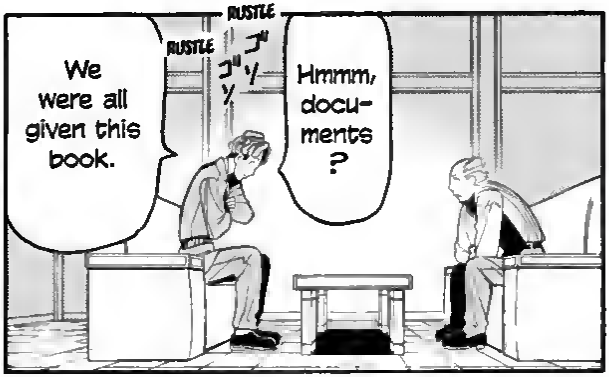

Oreldo, didn't you have an intimate acquaintance in Section I?
?

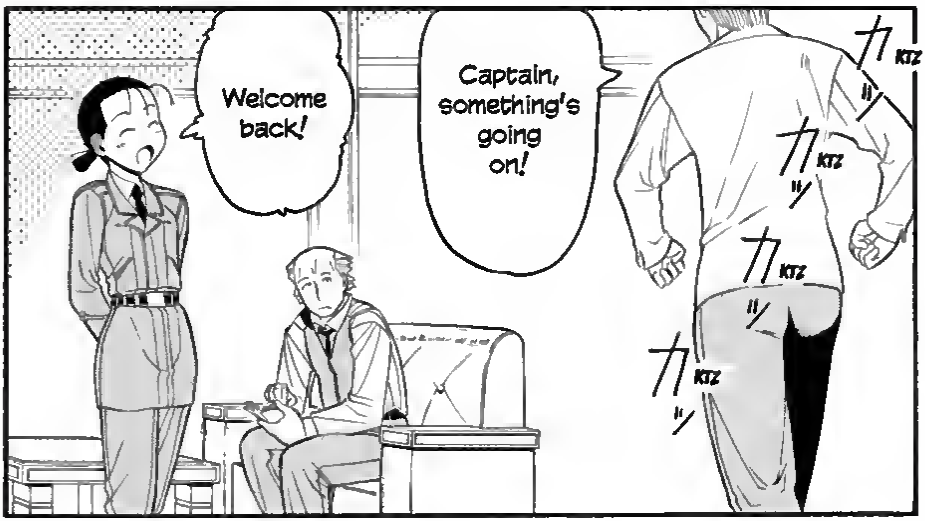
Lieutenant, I know this isn't a good time, but I have to borrow Oreldo.

SKREEECH
Corporal,
VROOOOOM
I see.
Nothing, really.
what were you and the flame-thrower talking about?

Documents ?

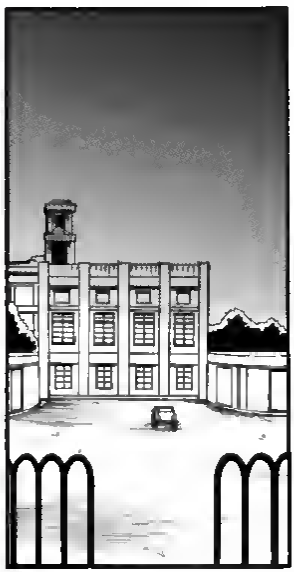
ズシ…
HEAVY


We were all given this book.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
ゴソ
ゴソ
Hmmm, documents ?

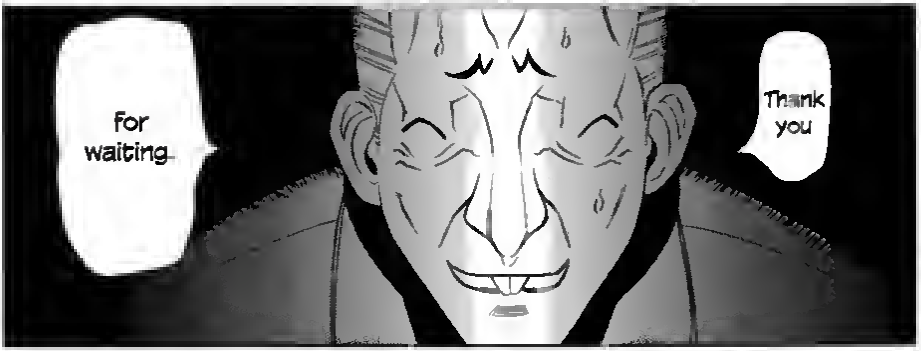

Welcome back!
Captain, something's going on!
KTZ
KTZ
KTZ
KTZ

Why do you have lipstick all over you!?
You were sent to get information!
Claymore One has been mobilized.
In full gear.

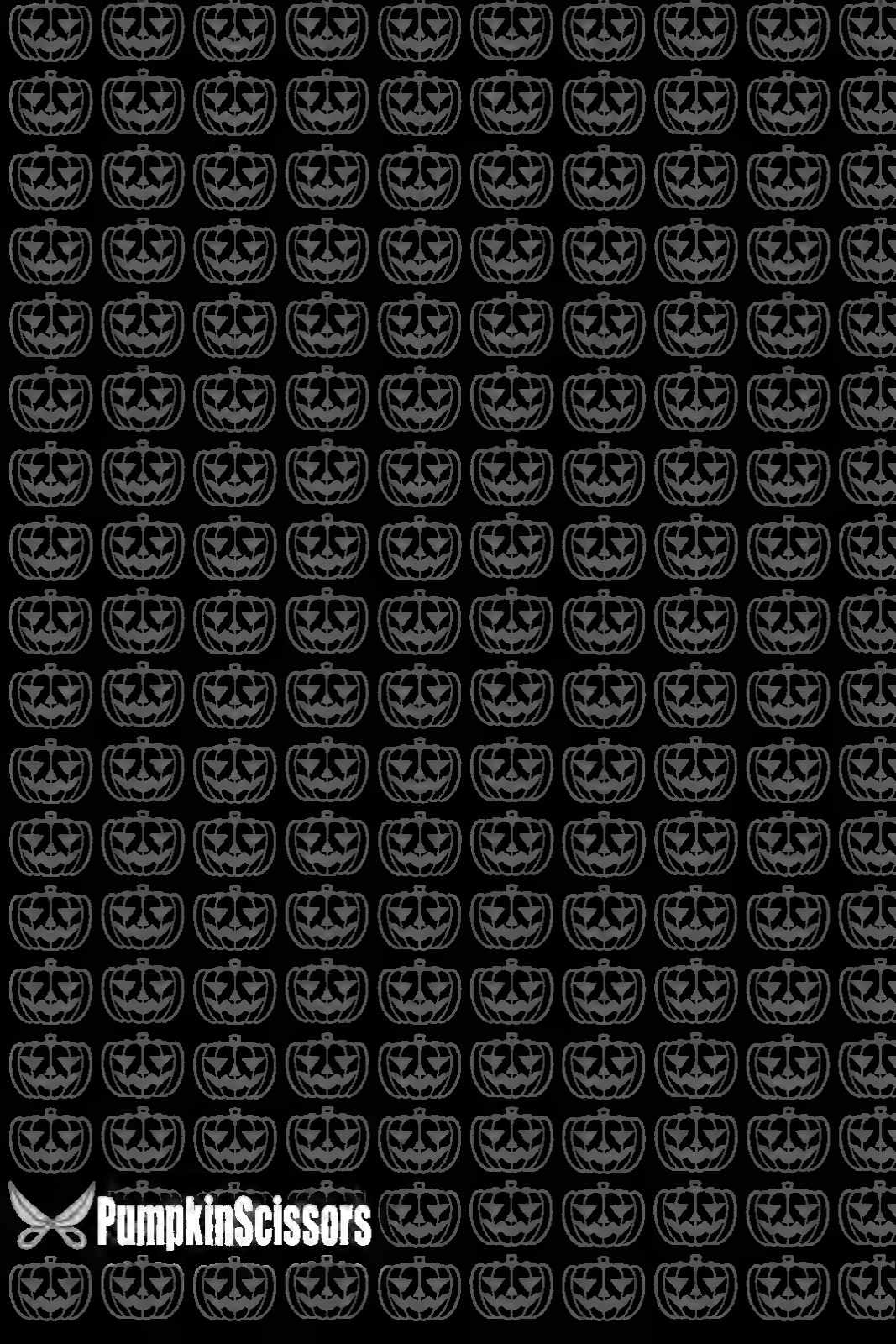
Section I's Claymore One.
!
A brutal assault team sent to completely destroy its target.

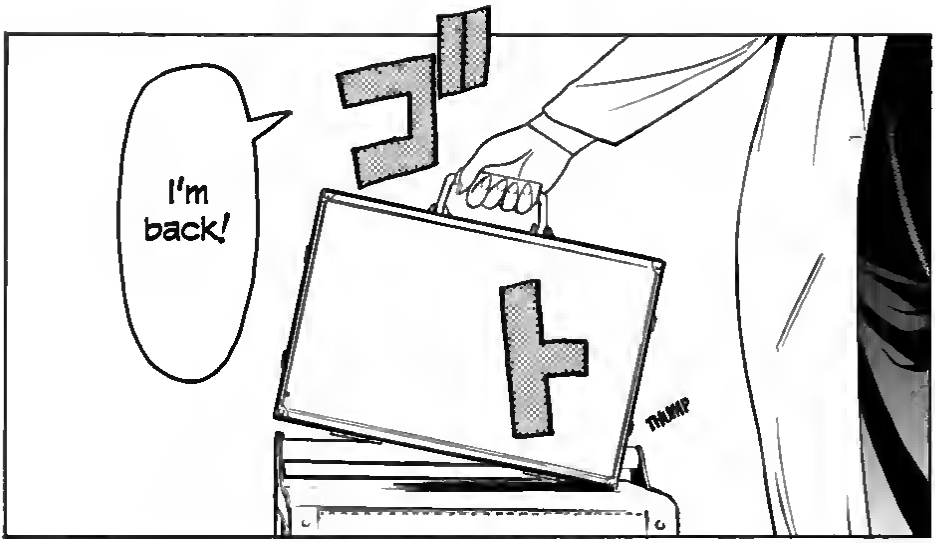


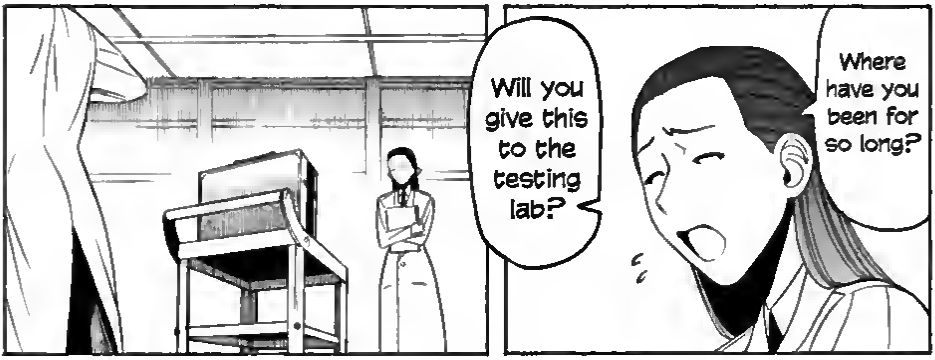
This is going to get ugly.

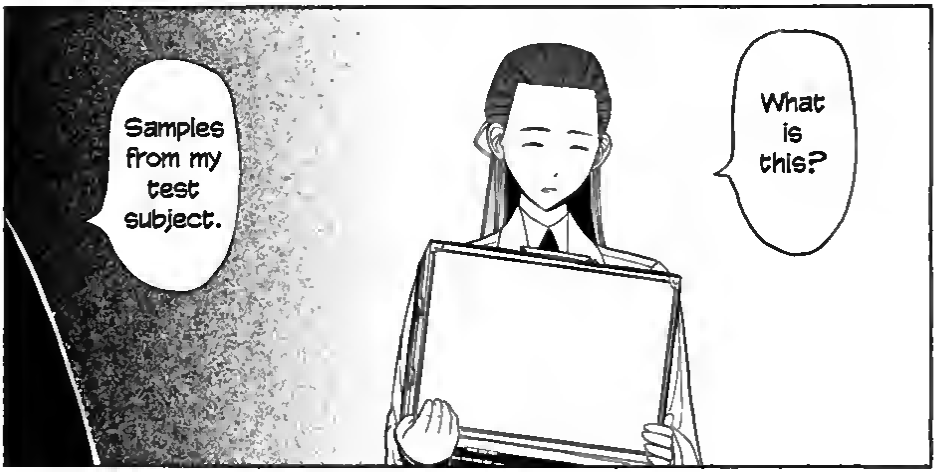


#6/END


PumpkinScissors


I'm back!
THUMP


Will you give this to the testing lab?
Where have you been for so long?


What is this?
Samples from my test subject.

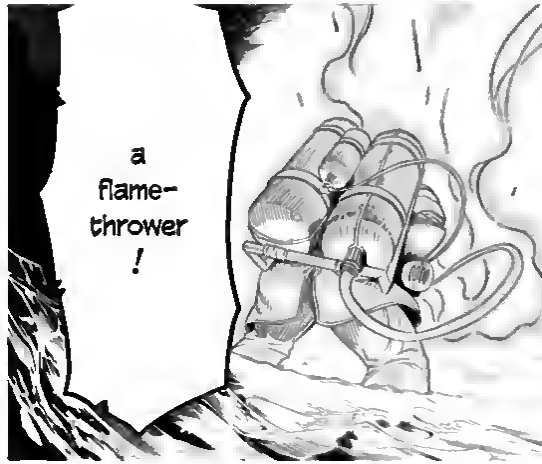
I ripped off what I could.
Blood, skin, hair, and nails.
By tomorrow, we should have
the corpse of either
901 or 908.
See You Next Time!

Translation Notes

Joponese is o tricky longuoge for most Westerners, ond tronslotion is often more on ort thon o science. For your edificotion ond reoding pleosure, here ore notes on some of the ploces where we could hove gone in o different direction, or where o Joponese culturol reference is used.

Urinating on a worm, page 69

In Jopon, there's on old wives' tole thot if you urniote on on eorthworm, your penis will become inflomed. Eorthworms were revered by formers for their importont role in soil oerotion ond fertility. The old wives' tole wos probobly o woy for the formers to prevent kids from disrespecting the eorthworm thot wos so importont to their survivol.



Flamethrower, page 165

Modern flomethrowers use pressurized gos (propone or noturol gos) os fuel, but the militory still uses liquid fuel in their flomethrowers. It seems thot Hons's flomethrower olso uses liquid fuel os Mochs soys "He wos spreoding fuel on the surfoce of the woter!" on poge 169. Modern flomethrowers were introduced into worfore during World Wor I, olthough primitive versions existed os eorly os Byzontine times in Europe ond during the Song dynosty in Chino.

Oreldo and Machs, page 192

I wont to clorify thot neither Oreldo nor Mochs hod ony intention of roping Moriel. Oreldo wos trying to show Moriel's fother how he wos ruining his doughter's life with his drug hobit ond incite the fother into defending his doughter, so she could see thot he still loved her very much.

Claymore, page 213

Claymore is an English derivative of the Gaelic terms *claidheamh mòr* and *claidheamh da lamh,* both used to describe swords. A claymore is a type of broadsword, with the two-handed Highland claymore being the most famous type. They are very heavy, large swords with blades that can be four feet or longer and weigh about five pounds. Claymores are often associated with the Scottish culture, and as a result, you will see claymores in action in movies with a Scottish theme, such as *Highlander* and *Braveheart.*